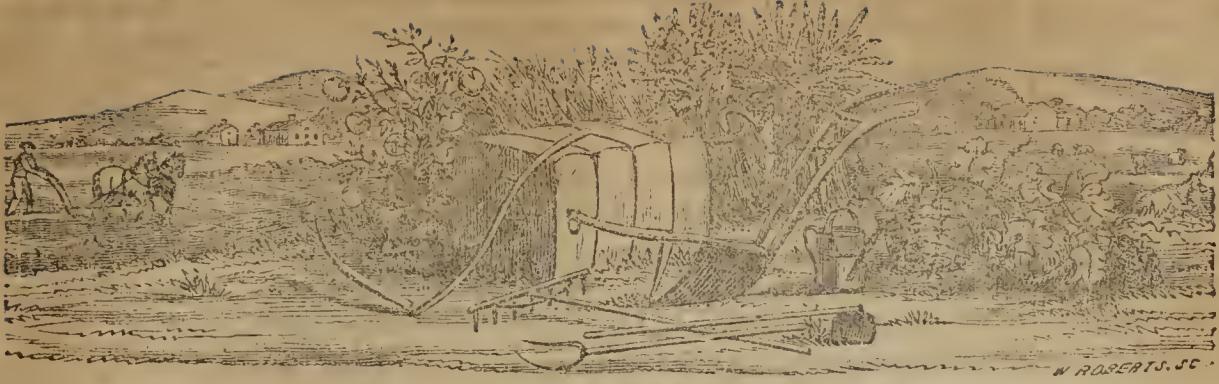


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



W. ROBERTS, SC.

THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

Vol. VI.

PENDLETON, S. C., JUNE, 1855.

No. VI.

The Farmer and Planter
is issued monthly at Pendleton, S. C.,
BY GEORGE SEABORN,
Editor and Proprietor.
S. W. LEWIS, Publisher.

TERMS.

1 copy, one year (<i>invariably in advance</i>)	\$1 00.
6 copies one year	" " 5 00.
25 copies one year	" " 20 00.
100 copies one year	" " 75 00.

All letters, except communications for the Farmer and Planter, must be post paid to insure attention.

Advertisements will be inserted at the rates of seventy-five cents a square, (twelve lines or less,) for the first insertion, and fifty cents for each subsequent one.

Liberal deductions will be made to liberal advertisers.

The postage on the Farmer and Planter is anywhere in the State, three-fourths of a cent, and out of the State one cent and a half per quarter.

SLOAN & SEABORN, Fair Play, S. C., are authorized agents for the Farmer and Planter.

The Rev. THOMAS DAWSON, of Beaufort District, S. C., is an authorized agent for the Farmer and Planter.

T. H. LEWIS, Mobile, Alabama, is an authorized agent for the Farmer and Planter.

The Rev. H. T. LEWIS, of Mississippi City, Miss. is an authorized agent for the Farmer and Planter.

MR. WM. B. OWINGS, of Columbus, Miss., is authorized to act as agent for the Farmer and Planter.

MR. SAMUEL TAYLOR, Marshall, Texas, is authorized to act as agent for the Farmer and Planter.

MR. R. M. STOKES, Laurensville, S. C., is authorized to act as agent for the Farmer and Planter.

HON. JOEL R. BERRY, of Malino, Miss. will act as agent for the Farmer and Planter.

Address

OF R. F. W. ALSTON, ON SEA COAST CROPS.

(Continued from Page 100.)

OF DRAINING AND MANURES.—The art of culture, however necessary, to be effectually taught by experience, and learned in practice, depends upon principles, for the knowledge of which we are indebted to science. In proportion as these are understood, and appreciated by farmers, will their system of practice be more or less improved. When a good system is applied with cheerful industry, patience, and perseverance, the grateful earth will seldom fail to yield her increase.

Light, heat, air and water, are the great fertilizers, furnished by bounteous Nature, for the intelligent use of man. Every plowing, every hoeing, every flooding of the fields, should be done in reference to the influence of one or more of these universal agencies.

Without good draining, the most thorough preparation of the surface, and subsoil, the most diligent labor after careful sowing, and the highest degree of manuring, will fail of producing the desired result. Water may be used so as partially to supersede its necessity in the culture of Rice; but, ultimately, it will be followed by evil effects on the land.

Manures of various kinds are freely used in Cotton planting; Guano, with plaster, and with Keittlewell's Salts, Mapes' preparation, and composts of litter with muck, marsh-mud, sedge, and sometimes salt.*

*Every stable whether for horses or cows, should be furnished with a tank, and conduits for the collection and preservation of liquid manures, otherwise so improvidently wasted.

In Rice-planting the practice of manuring^{*} is of recent origin, excepting of course that best of all dressings, to which we are indebted for increment of the soil itself, the natural deposit, namely, of sediment when the rivers overflow their banks, or silt from seaward, when the turbid waters, admitted into the fields, are held there, undisturbed for days. A good time to apply rice-flour to Rice, is to scatter it between the trenches immediately after the long-flood.

If the dressing be too heavy, the Rice, made too luxuriant, will lodge, and waste in the harvest. In applying lime (100 bushels) is safe, if there be plenty of stubble, or peaty fibre, or a thick native growth,) time should be given for it to act chemically and to become incorporated with the soil, before water is put on the land.

Rice-straw if listed into the fallow ground, and well covered up with a bed of earth, will be decomposed by planting time, and make a fine manure, improving the crop in both quantity and quality.

Rice-chaff,[†] spread three or four inches thick over the fallow ground, and plowed in, will produce a like effect in course of time. It is not as readily decomposed as the straw, and may disappoint early expectation.

Rice-flour[‡] is a still better, more stimulating dressing, but not so lasting in its effects. It

Every Farm-pen also should be provided with some convenient receptacle for the same, which is greatly more valuable than the dung of the cattle. A ditch (four feet by three) cut along the inner end of the stalls for oxen and cows, all around the pen, and filled in with rice-straw, or leaves, or any thing else that will absorb the liquid voided, is a plan which I have found answer very well, and may do, for the want of a better. The ditch may be emptied once a month, and refilled with fresh straw.

^{*}See Dr. Heriot's Report on Manuring Rice-land. Proceedings of Winyah and All Saints Agricultural Society, April 20th 1848, p. 16.

Ravenel's Report on Manures. Proceedings of State Agricultural Society, p. 273. Patent Office Report on Manures, re-published in "Cotton Planter."

[†]For an Analysis of the offals of Rice—see a Report on the subject by Prof. Sheppard, to the Winyah and all Saints Agricultural Society, as published by that Society. It is re-published in the Supplement to the Volume of Transactions of the State Agricultural Society.

[‡]For the consistant experiment made with Rice-chaff and flour, we are indebted to the late Joshua John Ward, whose observation, judgment and energy in managing his large Estate, were equaled by his humanity, hospitality, and willingness to communicate. The eminence which he attained as a Planter, the simplicity of his character, and the sterling qualities of heart, which gained him many friends, procured for him in 1821, on the part of the Legislature, the spontaneous offering of the honorary position of Lt. Governor of South Carolina—on which he retired from public life.

may be applied (thirty bushels to the acre) broad-cast, and plowed in before planting, or it may be scattered between the trenches after the long water, as above described.

Now, as the labor, by means of which these crops are raised—these important results, both commercial and national, are obtained, the produce of which pays for three-fourths of all imports into the country, (\$260,000,000). Our laborers are descendants of the African bondsmen given to our ancestors by the mother country at the same time that Indigo, and Rice and Cotton were sent to them to cultivate. They are well fed and clothed, well sheltered, and cared for in sickness, and during the infirmities and helplessness of old age. They are for the most part healthy, and cheerful, and, when well trained, are very efficient laborers.

The negroes have provided for them all the necessities of life in sufficient abundance. And they enjoy the privilege of procuring many comforts and indulgencies.

In every Christian neighborhood, the means are afforded of Missionary instruction in their duty to God and to man. On most well-regulated plantations the young negroes are taught specially; and to all, the way of salvation is preached. In short, the educated master, is the negro's best friend upon earth. But it is not enough in all cases, that the preaching of the Gospel is provided for our negroes; they must be induced to seek an interest in it—they must be won to obedience to the divine law—to love the truth. Obviously the strongest inducement, is example on our own part; next, a just, consistent, systematic administration of domestic government. Nothing sooner attracts the confidence of the negro, and commands his respect, than the illustration, in a system of management, of justice, tempered by kindness. But enough—let us do our present duty, kind Providence will smile upon our efforts.

In proportion as we shall have performed well our mission, so may we, with trust and hope, bequeath our inheritance to posterity; and so may each of us, when prostrate under the hand of time, and hourly expecting the summons of the last messenger on earth, with humble confidence look up toward the bar of our common Judge.

(CONCLUDED.)

Always take one or more agricultural newspapers, for every number will give you information which will benefit you dollars.

Lime should be accessible to poultry.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Dog Law, Rust on Cotton, and Pork Again.

MR. EDITOR:—Will you permit me to enter your columns again, not that I have anything like an article to write for your paper, but trust to make a few remarks and corrections to an article I see over the signature of F. B. I did not expect when I wrote my article that it would be taken as a subject for discussion; I only gave my opinion upon the dog tax question; therefore I think F. B. has entirely digressed, when he pitches in with his liquor laws to drench the dogs with, and cites J. W. to the great amount of corn consumed by distilleries, and the large amount of money expended in liquor drank in Greenville, he would find it far surpassed that consumed by the dogs. This is a subject I think to be discussed of itself. If F. B. had confined himself to his own District, as did J. D. W., it might have been taken for granted that he was not a temperance man, or if he is a Greenville man, his influence cannot extend very far as a temperance advocate, as he would try to make people believe he was, by the way he writes, else he certainly would not suffer so much whiskey-drinking in his District. Well, now, Mr. F. B., I can inform you that there is but one distillery in the beat that I live in, and that is about ten miles square, that is kept anything like in constant use, and that is kept rather as a sutler still; and I will say further, that in the same compass, during the three past years, there have been as many as three temperance societies at one time. If so much liquor has been drank, it must have been there, and F. B. must be a member, else he could not have found it out. I hardly could understand F. B. on the dog question, in one place he says, "that all-important question;" then again he says, "farther the *small* question," and asks "who would kill his dog because his Captain says so." If he will look at the article he will find that it was left to no man to kill but the owner of the dog. J. D. W. was annoyed with dogs before, but now is actually alarmed. He thought he had made a large calculation of the number of dogs in one District, and thanked Mr. Editor for helping him out a little; but lo and behold, F. B. comes out and says there are enough of dogs to fence in all the farms, and to make bolts and locks to all your corn houses, and would rather pay tax for them, than make a fence round his farm with rails. Farewell to dogdom.

RUST ON COTTON.—I am truly indebted to F. B. for his politeness in giving the cause, the ef-

feet and preventive of rust on cotton, as I only asked for the preventive. He says he has made some observations of his own, and I have no doubt that he has experienced it, also that rust on cotton is produced from weeds and briars left growing aroundstumps, trees and in the fence corners, it is very reasonable that these things should be there, for where the fence is made of dogs it is very necessary that they should have some shade to lie under. I will not pretend to say that his observations are incorrect; but I have never made such myself. One thing I do know, that where the rust came upon mine last season, was where the rows run out to a flat rock where there was no rubbish at all, and was as clean as a barn floor. If his observations and experience be correct; why is it that such things effecting the sap of cotton, do not adulterate it, for it seems that sap to sap would beget likeness, or rather adulterate; and until I see a blackberry growing on a cotton stalk, and the cotton bloom growing on a briar, I cannot be satisfied with either the cause or the preventive. I will not pretend to give any cause or preventive of rust on cotton, as I have made no satisfactory observations of my own; but I have always thought that rust was produced from some cause either in the earth or atmosphere, and I have thought that rust on cotton was something like rust on wheat—that it will remain in the seed for some time, and will require either a change of the seed or soil before getting clear of it.

PORK.—When I read F. B.'s piece on pork, I must say that I was as much disappointed as he possibly could have been on reading mine, which I thought cost nothing. He says if J. W. was to raise all his pork in that way, he would find the cost pretty considerable, and closed the article with a disappointed sigh. I wonder how many hogs of 160 he thinks it would take to do J. W. I will again refer him to my article, where he will find that I did not say positively that it cost nothing. I only thought so, and I think so yet. I think it was rather a saving than a cost. I thought I would find in his piece something that would beat mine all hollow in the way of pork raising, with nothing but I could not find how much he had fed to them, nor what they weighed when put up nor when killed, only that he found they fattened very fast on corn and dough, or slop made of turnips. I will admit that dough or slop of any kind, is better for hogs than the raw material; but notwithstanding all this, it is a well known fact that anything of as watery

nature as turnips, cannot be nutritious; yet his hogs got so fat and heavy that he had no weights heavy enough to weigh them. This brings to mind a little circumstance that took place between a slave and his master; the master give the negro a lock to put on his saddle bags. The slave says to his master, what in deable tink knife is, nigger got knife and cut um. I wonder where T. B.'s knife, ax and saw was. Wonder if he has got none, and before weighing time again, I would recommend him to the advertisement in your columns of four banks platform scales.

Now, Mr. Editor, you have J. D. W.'s article in the November number, vol. 5th., on page 300; also you have F. B.'s in the January number, vol. 6th., page 7. I leave it to you to make the decision, hoping you will weigh well the arguments in the scale of equilibrium, and give to each its due weight, and I think there will be room enough in the scales of F. B. to throw in his hogs and weigh them.

TURNIPS—Mr. Editor, what is the difference between a large crop of turnips, and a large turnip crop. F. B. says he had a large crop of turnips. On seeing this brings to my mind my large turnip crop which I raised in the fall of '53. I sowed my turnips in the drill, thinned out to about 6 inches; hoed them twice over in the spring; when raising some to transplant for seed, I found one very large. I took it to the house, where it was weighed and measured by two other persons, who returned their verdict, 9 pounds, and 37 inches round. The seed, old flat bottom turnip, green stalk, with yellow blossom. To make a good turnip crop, you must plow your lot as often as you plow your corn. Plow twice at the time of sowing, sow the 5th of August cover with the plow if sown broadcast, and my word for it, you will have good turnips. I have not failed in the last fifteen years.

J. D. W.

Cements, Roofing, &c.

An inquiry having been made of us, not long since, by a correspondent, relating to a roofing material cheaper and as good as shingles, a friend has sent us the recipe for making such roofing, according to the patent granted to W. H. Poindexter, Fayette, Tenn., the administrator of the inventor J. R. REMINGTON.

CEMENT FOR FIRE PROOF ROOFING.—Tack down on the boarding of the roof thin cotton cloth or paper, such as is employed to put on pitch and gravel. For every ten feet square, boil about two gallons of pure linseed oil, four to six hours, and stir into one gallon of the oil

two quarts pure cotton seed ashes, one pint of red lead or white lead in oil, and seven gallons of fine, dry, clean sand. If a brown or grey coat is desired, add a half-pint of lampblack to the red or white lead. Now moisten the cloth with a mop or brush dipped into oil with a little of the ashes in it, and spread the cement with a plasterer's trowel, rubbing and pressing hard, and having the first coat one quarter of an inch thick, and the second one-eighth. The plank must be seasoned and dry. The patent for this cement is on the list of the fourth of July last, and it appears to be a very good composition. The claim is for the use of cotton seed ashes, or the ashes from any other oil-yielding vegetable substance as an ingredient of cement.

A common kind of composition roofing, but used to a very limited extent here, is made by a mixture of pitch, tar and some linseed oil (about one pint to the gallon of tar) boiled in a kettle, with which is stirred some dry, sharp sand and clean gravel, pressed down with a spade or shovel. It is put on in one coat, on coarse factory cloth, previously tacked down on the boards. This makes a tolerably good roof; still we believe a shingle roof is generally preferred to this. Some roofing cements pitch and tar, covered with pitch and sand, but the oil tends to prevent the cement from cracking when it gets dry, and should therefore always be used as part of the composition. If about an ounce of litharge be used to every pint of oil, the cement will be greatly improved.—*Scientific American.*

Agriculture.

It is the opinion of many, that more skill, ingenuity and judgment are required, in the mechanic arts, than in the pursuit of agriculture. But that this is a false notion, a consideration of the nature of a farmer's avocation, as compared with that of a mechanician, will convince any one, who gives the subject his consideration. A knowledge of the nicest and most difficult species of mechanism, is easily acquired in a very few years, by a boy of common intelligence. Notwithstanding the amount of labor, of thought and care it may have cost the originators and inventors of any particular kind of workmanship in art, yet to impart that knowledge to others is comparatively easy. The apprentice soon learns his trade, and he has little else to learn. He has mastered it, and the practice of it is almost mechanical, requiring little exercise of the mind. But how wide a field for the exercise of the intellect does the calling of a farmer present? How many different kinds of

operation are performed on a farm in the course of the year, all of which require judgment, thought and skill. To begin with the first part of the process, the proper preparation of the land which is to receive the seed. This is a work which requires some knowledge of the principles of chemistry, the nature of soils and the laws of vegetation. If the land is not properly prepared, his expectations of a good crop will be disappointed. Here then, at the very outset, is the necessity of knowledge, skill and judgment, in order to be a successful farmer. It is unnecessary to follow him through the many operations which he has to perform before he reaps the reward of his labor. In every one, there is the same demand for the exercise of judgment and skill, and exertion of thought. It is more difficult to be a good farmer than to attain the utmost perfection in any mechanical trade whatever.

The fact that so little attention is paid to preparing men for the pursuit of agriculture, while it is deemed absolutely necessary, that a mechanic should acquire a knowledge of his trade, by serving an apprenticeship, has led to the erroneous idea, that the latter is engaged in a nicer, and more difficult employment, one in which more judgment and ingenuity are required, than in the occupation of a tiller of the soil. This false estimate, this undervaluing of their calling on the part of agriculturists, is one of the causes that have operated to retard improvement. The young man who is ambitious, who has received some mental cultivation, and aspires to honor and distinction, will not engage in an employment which he has been taught to look upon with a species of contempt, and to regard, as fit only for those of a lower order of intellect and inferior acquirements. The false estimate in which agriculture has been held, is fast giving place to more just and exalted views, in relation to the noblest of human avocations.

The period of agricultural improvement has commenced, and when convenient markets are opened (in our own State) for the ready sale of the produce of the earth, and industry stimulated by its appropriate reward, the culture of the soil, will be looked upon, not as a business fit only for a clod-hopper, but as one demanding for its successful prosecution, the exertions of the most cultivated minds.—*New Era.*

Cows' Sore Teats.—First wash with castile soap and warm water, then apply lime water and linseed oil, mixed in equal parts.

Read in your spare moments, rather than gossip.

Salt in feeding Cattle.

From some slight and inconclusive experiments of our own, as well as from physiological considerations, we have had our doubts whether it was good economy to allow animals, *feeding for the butcher*, the free use of salt. Salt is doubtless conducive to health, favoring the formation of bile, and aiding in carrying off offensive matter from the system; but there is no reason to suppose that it favors the accumulation of fat. Liebig, indeed, asserts that "the absence of common salt is favorable to the formation of fat," and that the "fattening of an animal is rendered impossible when we add to its food an excess of salt, although short of the quantity required to produce a purgative effect." Recently, however, in allusion to experiments made since the publication of the work in which the above sentences occur, Liebig says: "Salt does not act as a producer of flesh; but it neutralizes the injurious actions of the conditions, which must be united in the unnatural state of animals fed or fattened in order to produce flesh; and the advantages attaining its use can hardly be estimated too highly."

The experiments of Boussingault have often been alluded to, as indicating that salt by no means exercises a beneficial influence upon the growth of cattle, and upon the development of flesh, to the extent usually ascribed to it. His more recent experiments, however, result in favor of salt. Thus, two lots of steers, of three each, were fed on hay for 13 months, one lot being allowed salt, the other not.

The average weight per head of the salted lot, at the commencement of the experiment, was 655 pounds; at the end of 13 months, 2,090 lbs. Increase 1,435 lbs. They consumed per head 15,972 lbs. of hay. One ton of hay, therefore, produced 143 lbs. of increase of animal.

The second lot, which received no salt, averaged at the commencement of the experiment 896 lbs.; at the end of 13 months, 1,890. Increase 994 lbs. They consumed per head 14,553 lbs. of hay. Or one ton of hay produced 137 lbs. of increase of animal.

The steers receiving salt produced 6 lbs. more increase for each ton of hay consumed than those which were not allowed salt. This may be considered only a slight advantage, and in France did not pay for the cost of salt in this country, however, where it is much cheaper, its use will doubtless, be profitable. Boussingault remarks "the salt exercises no considerable influence on the growth, yet it appears to exert a beneficial effect on the appearance

and condition of the animal." Up to the first fourteen days, no perceptible difference was observed between the two lots; but in the course of the month following, the difference was visible even to the unpracticed eye. In the beasts of both lots, the skin to the touch was fine and sound, but the hair in the steers having salt, "was smooth and shining; that of the others dull and erect." As the experiment progressed, these signs became still more prominent. "In the animals of the second lot, after they had had no salt for a year, the hair was matted, and the skin here and there devoid of hair. Those of the first lot, on the contrary, retained the look of stall kept beasts. Their liveliness and frequent indications of the tendency to leap, contrasted strikingly with the heavy gait and cold temperament observed in those of the second lot. "There can be no doubt," Bossingault adds, "that a higher price would have been obtained in the market for the oxen reared under the influence of salt."

H.

Borax Washing Recipe.

A number of new subscribers have requested us to republish the following recipe, which appeared in a former number. We have been waiting to give the results of some careful experiments in our family, but which were broken off by sickness. Enough, however, was ascertained to convince us that there is really a great advantage in adding a small quantity of borax to common hard soap, previous to using it for washing.

Our method is as follows: To every pound of soap add from one-half to three-quarters of an ounce of common borax, with one quart of water. Put the water in any convenient vessel upon the stove, add the borax, somewhat pulverized, and then put in the soap cut up in thin pieces. Keep them hot, but not boiling, for two or three hours, or until the whole is dissolved, and then set it aside to cool, when a solid mass will be formed. If the vessel is set upon the warm stove at night, the operation will be completed in the morning, though we think it better to stir the mass just before it is cooled.

The night before washing, rub the clothes where most soiled, with the soap, and soak in water till morning. This soap, which has been more than doubled in quantity, will go quite as far, bulk for bulk, as the original, thus saving at least one-half. The boiling and washing are to be performed in the usual manner; but it will be found that the labor of rubbing is diminished three-fourths, while the usual caus-

tic or eating effects of the soap is greatly lessened; and the hands will retain a peculiar soft and silky feeling even after a large washing. The preparation is adapted to all kinds of fabrics, colored or uncolored, including flannels, and it is thought to increase their whiteness. By using this preparation, with the previous soaking over night, we have had sixteen dozen pieces finished early in the forenoon, when, by the old process, it would have been an "all day's job."—*American Agriculturist.*

From the Winnsboro' Register.

Cost of Fencing.

MR. EDITOR:—The appearance in your issue of the 17th ult., of an article on the "cost of fencing plantations," was at this particular time most apropos. Not a reader of your journal in the district, nay not even in the State, but that feels most sensibly the truths contained in that article. The writer, whom we suppose to be one of the editors of the Southern Cultivator, from his signature, fully understands the immense expense, but does not know the prime cost of enclosing a field for cultivation. Ask the farmers and planters of our district what it costs to keep the several plantations well fenced against the intrusion of their own and other owner's stock, most of which are turned out to hunt their food or die of starvation, and we venture, not one of them could tell within half what it costs. Southern planters generally haul their rails and build fences at a time when they suppose nothing else could be done. The cotton crop being picked and packed, and the corn housed, a "new ground" must be cleared from ancestral custom; in clearing this the rails are made, and the fences built with no loss but time, and time to such men is of no value. Were this same tract of woods land allowed to remain, and its surface well scraped and cleared of its trash to make manure, thousands of impoverished acres might be reclaimed, and our beautiful forests left standing as pasture ground for the owner's stock.

As fences are built during the winter season, when planters do not think it profitable to keep their plows, and those too of the subsoil kind, running, and many of them are altogether ignorant of the method and value of making manure, clearing lands and hauling rails is a necessary alternative to employ the hands on a plantation, hence its cost is regarded inconsiderable. But when, after such a dry winter as we have had, there happens so universal and destructive a fire as has lately visited our State, and almost the entire South, and this too, in the very beginning of the planting season, each land owner will appreciate fully the following summary which we suggest as the prime cost of fencing a field for cultivation.

We will select a square field of 36 acres, 6 on either side. The length of a fence to enclose such a field would be 5,040 feet, or nearly one mile. Now a rail fence seven rails high (which is too low to be certain protection) will average about one rail to the foot, hence it will

require 5,040 rails to build the fence. A hand that will maul 125 rails one day with another, is worth 75 cents a day, finding himself. It will require him 40 days work to maul the rails, or an expence of \$30. The rails, if worth anything should sell for at least \$2.50 per hundred, for \$125 for the 5,040. Hauling the rail's and building the fence, we suppose, would be worth \$20. Hence, the entire cost of cutting the timber, mauling the rails, and finishing the fence be \$175. We consider this estimate a fair one, or believe the fence the most expensive that can be built."

The writer here makes a calculation of the relative costs of the worm post and board fence, and shows, with considerable force, that the latter is the cheaper plan. After this he continues.

"Mr. Editor, for one we are opposed to either of the above fences around our cultivated lands, and finely believe it should be required of every owner of stock to pasture them upon his enclosed, while his cultivated lands were left entirely open. To enclose hogs, some sort of close fence would be required, but let each hog raiser select that for himself. To enclose cattle or horses nothing is required more than a row of posts from twelve to fifteen feet apart, with two or three courses of strong wire running through them. The worm fence, as well as the ditch and bank fence, are further more expensive, because they occupy about one acre of every forty which they enclose. We trust our Legislature will, before they build any more State Houses, turn their attention to this necessary want of far the larger portion of the State.

Yours, respectfully,

MONTICELLO.

P. S. We selected the thirty-six acre field merely as an average in size among our fields, believing that where there are ten larger, there are fifteen smaller, and hence more expensive to enclose.

Vegetables and their Cookery.

We have long labored to improve the culture and quality of the various vegetables in culinary use. But this labor were vain, unless our housewives, boarding-house keepers, and crack hotels, know how to cook them.

The peculiar flavor of asparagus, green peas, green corn, tomatoes, squash, egg plant, and salsify, cannot be imitated by art, but is very easily spoiled by the cook.

There are many vegetables that should be cooked so as to preserve the green color. Such as asparagus, spinach, green peas, snap beans, okra, etc.; this cannot be done if cooked in iron. Brass or vessels lined with porcelain, will preserve the green of nature. How often do we see okra as black as ink from being cooked in iron vessels, and green peas that are *black* peas. It is not the looks alone, but the flavor is not as good as where the green is preserved.

VEGETABLE SOUPS.—All vegetables that are put into soups, should be put into cold water; and gradually brought up to the boiling point. This will cause the vegetable to diffuse its flavor throughout the whole mass. Irish potatoes should never be put in soups, until first

having been cut up in hot water, this extracts their bitterness, and renders them fit to mingle in the other vegetable mass. The meats to flavor vegetable soups, may be beef, veal, mutton or chicken, and like the vegetables, shoud be put into cold water. There are fewer good soups made in the country than almost any other dish, and the reason is obvious; it takes time to cook them. An okra gumbo soup should boil incessantly six hours then the flavor of the meat, vegetables and condiments is so intimately and delicately blended, that they all seem one delicious mass. Salt hardens water and flesh, and should not be put into soups until the mass is well done.

BEEETS.—No knife should ever touch a beet, previous to boiling; rub the leaves off by hand, for if there is a wound made in the beet the best of its juices will be lost in boiling. Drop the beets into boiling water with a handful of salt. Most cooks take beets from the boiling kettle and place them in cold water for the ease with which the skin peals off. This should never be done, as they part with one-half their flavor. When taken from the pot, let them drain, then peel and slice them, butter, peper and salt them, pour good vinegar over, which many prefer.

CABBAGES.—There are more ways to cook a fine cabbage than to boil it with a bacon side and yet few seem to comprehend that there can be any loss in cooking it, even in this simple way. Two-thirds of the cooks place cabbage in cold water and start it to boiling; this extracts all the best juices, and makes the pot liquor a soup. The cabbage head, after having been washed and quartered, should be dropped into boiling water, with no more meat than will just season it. Cabbage may be cooked to equal broccoli or cauliflower. Take a firm sweet head, cut it into shreds, lay it in salt and water for six hours, now place it in hoiling water until it becomes tender—turn the water off, and add sweet milk, when thoroughly done take up in a colander and drain. Now season with butter and pepper, with a glass of good wine and a little nutmeg grated over, and you will have a dish little resembling what are generally called *greens*.

CAULIFLOWER AND BROCOLI.—They should be dropped in fair boiling water, taking care not to let them boil too long as the buds will drop off. Season with butter, pepper and salt with the addition of a little white wine.

CARROTS.—This vegetable is but little used except in soups; yet they are very palatable and healthy, containing a great amount of nutrient. They should be placed in boiling water, and served up with melted butter, pepper and salt.

CELERY.—This delicious vegetable is not generally appreciated as a cooking vegetable. Wash the stems clean in salt and water, and drop them into fair boiling water. After boiling twenty minutes, take up and drain; place some toasted bread in the bottom of a dish; now lay the celery over and season with melted butter, pepper, salt and such other condiments as the taste may dictate.—*Soil of the South.*

Corn, Beans and Oregon Peas.

We extract the following from a private letter from a friend and subscriber, who will accept our thanks for the corn and beans, the latter of which we had intended writing for, having lost those sent us last summer in consequence of late planting and dry weather. The corn has somewhat the appearance of the old "shoe peg;" the grain very long and narrow, but we think somewhat more flinty than the shoe peg. Speaking of seed corn, brings to mind a remark of a friend to us at Greenville Court, that in selecting his seed he invariably took the butt end of the ear only, and that he had much improved his corn by so doing. We have an experiment in progress, with grains from the two extreme ends and middle of the ear, which we hope to report to our readers.—ED. F. & P.

MR. SEABORN—*Dear Sir:* I here enclose you a few grains of improved corn, to look at, taken from ears that I have been planting. I have been several years improving it. I took a wrong view at first of increasing the number of ears on one stalk, but soon found I would ruin it. I then tried to improve the ear and quality of the grain, which I have done very much; so much so that many of my neighbors have quit the idea of sending abroad for improved corn, and are planting mine. The commission merchants of Augusta, Georgia, said there was but one gentleman they knew, that carried as good corn as I did to that market. He plants the rich soil on the banks of the Savannah. I plant pine land.

Not knowing whether your beans done well the season was so dry, I send you enough to plant a few hills more.

I planted eleven hills of the Oregon Peas you sent me, the day I got them, July the 19th, in my garden, where it was well manured; the earth was so dry I watered them to bring them up. I did not plant all for fear, with the dry and lateness of the season, they would not come to perfection; but they were full of pods, and perhaps a pint or more matured from so few hills.

Respectfully yours, J. B.

A good Soap Receipt.—Have the ley of sufficient strength to float an egg; measure it into barrels as obtained, and to each gallon add 8 lb. of grease. Stir every day until it becomes thick, then 16 gallons of this soft soap put 4 gallons of ley as strong as that above. Boil one hour or more, until the grease entirely disappears. Then dissolve 6 qts. of salt in 4 gallons of water. Stir it in, and boil the whole 15 minutes longer. Pour it out into tubs to harden, cut it out in bars, and dry in the shade.

Innovations upon old precedents should be rare.

Doctoring Cattle and Horses.

We find some sensible remarks in a recent lecture by Dr. Geo. H. Dadd, Veterinary Surgeon of Boston. The Dr. is elevating Veterinary practice into a science, as it is. We wish there were more such men.—EDS. NEW ERA.

The veterinary science, has been too long neglected in this country, and for one reason, because it has been practiced generally by men who had but little knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and the laws of life, and therefore operated with poor success. They begin an examination of an animal by hunting for a "soft place" in the tail, and failing in that, go to the other extremity, and examine the horns. If they find the horn hot, they say that the animal has the "horn ail," and commence a curious operation in boring the horns. But heat in the horns is only a symptom of disease, not disease itself. Like the tending of the circulation to the surface in the human system, it indicates want of equilibrium. Sometimes on boring into a horn, *pus* is exuded, and the operator immediately cries "horn ail." But this is nonsense. There is a direct connection in the horns of animals with the nostrils, and this matter which escapes is caused by nasal gleets, or running of the nose, and should be drawn off in a natural way. Upon the inner surface of the horn is a membrane, and if it is punctured by boring, a disease in the horns will be likely to ensue. Hollowness is a characteristic of horns in all cattle; there is a perfect channel, extending from the tip of the horns to the nose. There is a disease of the brain which sometimes destroys cattle. I have put my hand into the brains of cattle after death, and found them as soft as sponge. This is owing to the derangements of the stomach. There is a great degree of sympathy between the head and the stomach; strike a man a blow on the head and it will make him feel sick; strike him on the stomach, and it will make him fall down from giddiness. Now the "horn ail" is indigestion.

I knew of a cow which was driven ninety miles, and on arrival home, was found to be suffering from constipated bowels. Her owner was ignorant of the proper measures to be taken, and applied to his neighbors for advice; they recommended some one thing, and some another. He gave her, three days in succession, a pound of salts, and these failing to produce any effect, 36 drops of Croton oil, (enough to kill any but a sick cow,) then a quarter of a pound of gunpowder. The animal died, and I found, on a post-mortem examination, that all this medicine had passed into the paunch, and had consequently produced no effect.

If medicine is poured rapidly into a cow, it will run directly into the paunch; but if administered gently, the cow will be enabled to pass it away to the fourth or digestive stomach, where it will operate. Horses, however, are so constructed, that whatever is poured down the throat is sure to pass into the stomach. Cattle are subject to the same disease as we are, and should be treated in like manner, and with equal skill. We have a disease among cattle

In this country, called *pleura-pneumonia*, which generally takes the best of the herd. The veterinary surgeons in Europe, are now experimenting, by inoculating cattle for *pleura-pneumonia*; they obtain matter from the diseased animal, and introduce it into the system of healthy ones in view of palliating that awful disease.

What is Practical Farming.

The ashes of plants are called inorganic matter. Though apparently homogeneous, these are important to the farmer. The same plant, without reference to the soil on which it grows, always yields an ash of about the same composition. Different classes of plants yield different kinds of ashes. Inorganic or ashy matter is obtained by plants only from the soil. It is of a mineral character, and never exists naturally in the atmosphere. From these facts we see that the soil in order to produce perfect plants, must contain the matters necessary to form their ashes, while these being different in the various crops, the soil may be fertile for one crop and not for the others, because the proportions of its organic materials may be such that it can furnish food for the ashes of but one kind of plant. Other soils are again fertile for all plants and if we examine these by chemical analysis, we shall find that they contain all that is necessary for forming the ashes of all plants.

The first fact that strikes us in studying the composition of vegetable ashes is, that they consist of the same substances in all plants, the differences consisting only in their relative proportions to each other. These substances are called potash, soda, lime, magnesia, phosphoric acid, sulphuric acid, chlorine, (a constituent of common salt,) silica, (the base of sand,) oxyd of iron, (iron rust,) and in some plants oxyd of magnese.

These constituents, except the last named, exist in all of our cultivated plants, the proportions varying with the kind of plant. For instance, the ashes of wheat and other seeds contain large proportions of phosphoric acid, the potato yields much potash, clover possesses large quantities of lime, etc. The relations seem to be invariable, and we observe in practice that, other things being equal, a soil in which phosphoric acid largely predominates is best for wheat, rye, corn, &c.

An excess of potash fits the soil for potatoes. Lime induces a growth of clover or other plants having ashes of a similar composition.

The same principle explains another apparent peculiarity of cultivation. It is often observed that soils which are fertile for one crop refuse to produce it after a few year's cultivation, though they will produce some other crops in abundance. The reason for this is that the constant production of a single kind of plant robs the soil chiefly of one or two ingredients, until they are too much reduced in proportion to afford proper sustenance to plants requiring them so largely; though it may still contain other ingredients in sufficient quantity to sustain another class of plants. Thus successive crops of wheat rob the soil of phosphoric acid, while they require its potash in less

quantities. Supposing the two constituents to have existed in equal proportions at first, at the end of five years of wheat growing there would be remaining in the soil more of the potash than phosphoric acid, and it would be better fitted for the growth of potatoes than that of wheat.

On this principle is founded the rotation of crops, which consists of cultivating say three or five kinds of crops in yearly succession; this so varying the demands on the soil that it supplies the various kinds of inorganic matter in about the proportions, and is left at the end of the rotation in proper balance—that is, having no constituent largely predominating over others. While on this subject, we may mention a very plausible theory on the subject of weeds. It is the natural tendency of soils to produce spontaneous growths of plants the composition of whose ashes corresponds with their own. Many of the more noxious weeds differ greatly in their inorganic parts from crops which we wish to cultivate, and when the ash of the weeds corresponds more closely with the soil than it does with that of our crop, the weed has the best chance of success, and unless closely watched will crowd it out. It is reasonably supposed that if we so improve the character of the soil as to render it more congenial for the crop and less so for the weed, we may pursue our operations with better hope of success. This is a matter which may be easily brought into practice, and which must greatly advance the interest of the cultivator. The compositions of the various kinds of the vegetable ashes have been often published in tables of analysis by the assistance of which we may know the exact requirements of our crops, and may fit our soils for their reception.

The farmers should always bear in mind this law of nature, viz.: The various classes of plants have ashes of different compositions, and no crop can come to perfection without the matters necessary to form the ashes peculiar to it.

[*Religious Herald.*]

What does it cost to Fence?—The amount of capital employed in the construction and repair of the wooden fences in the United States, would be deemed fabulous, were not the estimates founded on statistical facts, which admit of no dispute. Burknapp, a well known agricultural writer, says: "Strange as it may seem, the greatest investment in this country, the most costly production of human industry, is the common fences, which divide the fields from the highways, and separate them from each other. No man dreams that when compared with the outlay for these unpretending monuments of art, our cities and our towns, with all their wealth, are left far behind. You will scarcely believe me when I say that the fences of this country cost more than twenty times the amount of specie that is in it."

A good Price for a Horse.—The colt Morgan, from the original Black Hawk, owned by David Hill, Bridgeport, Vermont, five years old, was sold last week in New York, by James M. Hill, to Mr. B. F. Fields, of California, for \$4,000.

For the Farmer and Planter.

A Melange for the Farmer and Planter.

For some time we have been silent, for the simple reason we could find nothing to write about. Nor are we yet in a much better condition, as to a supply of matter of any novelty, or probably of much interest to the readers of the Farmer and Planter; but we are subject to a sort of periodical constitutional disease, known, named, and called a writing Fit, and when this fit takes us, we have to gratify its wants, sense or nonsense. Often, no doubt, driving the reader to scratch the seat of Sampsons' strength where no uncomely intruders are nibbling; be this as it may, we must write. So at it we go, in the face of all sorts of consequences. Now reader, be tender, for Abbeville tries to do right, think right, and write right; but no doubt often shoots wide of the mark, from the very fact that he is nothing but a man, just like the rest of men, subject to all the weaknesses, and littlenesses that poor human nature is prone to.

We are accustomed to look upon the present state of agriculture as in a highly improved condition; with admission of this, can we calmly and impartially look at its present condition, without being forcibly impressed with the very numerous features of a primitive, and we might say, barbarous rule in the opinions and customs of many agriculturists. Farming is a common pretension, claimed by all. This is a delusion, however, wide-spread, based on self-importance, one of the weaknesses of our constitution. It is true, the instinctive wants under the peculiar organization of the man-animal, first prompted his energies to multiplied production of the fruits of the earth, in which there has, no doubt, been as in all other things, a progression, and the rudeness of barbarism has given place to the creations of genius; but probably in the science of agriculture, more slowly than in all other arts and sciences, resulting from the active workings of the human genius. The rudeness of origin still clings to the business of agriculture, and retards progression, so self-evident in many other arts and sciences. The few minds who have aimed at a full development of this almost paramount science, have to struggle with all sorts of embarrassments in their illustrations of truth and consequent expositions of errors. It is strictly true that knowledge emanates from the few to the many, and this knowledge thus becomes expanded; but in the profession of agriculture, it is hard for the strictly accurate principles of the science to take a deep and living root. The selfishness of pre-existing opinions are ever in the way; forgetful that man in

all pursuits is just what knowledge makes him, and knowledge is most certainly progressive, and under its influences, agriculture in common with all other arts and sciences, is capable of a degree of perfectibility, and an exaltation from its present condition. We must check our pen, our disease is in alto, and if we are not careful, we shall get into some deep place, *way be a mud hole*; but defiant of this, we must say a little more about the business of agriculture.

We have said that man generally has a common pretension to agriculture. We admit the pretension, for that is the right word, rightly applied. We will now examine a little into the validity of these claims, this will legitimately come under our caption of being a Melange, (a French word, which Drummond says means a mixture.) We may make mush and milk of it, or something not quite so good.

Agriculture has to do with living being, for plants like animals, are possessed with life, like them they are reproduced from a germ, which expands under laws of its peculiar existence, develops to full maturity, and dies and decays; and thus like all life fulfills the measure of its destiny. Reproduction is the great object of plant existence. We have no evidence of plant life being sensient, as we understand the term; but they have life and motion, their fluids are as active as the fluids in animals, as would be witnessed while we write if the genial and life-sustaining shower would bless us with its reality. Water is a necessary element to both plant and animal life. Cut off from this, in some form both would languish and die. The dews of night revives the drooping corn and all other forms of plant life. The science of medicine makes it necessary that physicians should well understand the phenomena of life in animals, and the laws that govern in existence. This knowledge must be attained if he is fit for his profession. He is not born with all the necessary knowledge to fit him for this, but has to attain it by the exercise of his powers of thought. So with the farmer, He must arrive at a knowledge of agriculture by patient and well directed investigation, and active industrial energies. The laws of plant life should be examined and understood, the nature of soils generally, and specially meteoric phenomena, has largely to do with his business; in a word the science of agriculture embraces in its wants a knowledge of all the laws of nature, and the organic and inorganic elements that constitute living and dead material being. This being the fact, then it is no easy matter to be a good farmer. There is ample work for mind and body, every faculty

of mind and every energy of the physical man must be brought to bear on the work, if ever progress marks in agricultural science.

We pass on to another ingredient in our promised mixture. The acquisitive propensities of man are at work with the novelty and fiction loving feelings of our nature. For we are tempted to the conclusion by its universality, that a love of fiction is a principle in the constitution of man, with cravings that must be satisfied. On this the sharp-sighted Barnumites of our genus, play their ever-varied and varying tricks. First in rank comes the concentrated fertilizers, Guano, Kettlewell's Salts, and manures in snuff-boxes. Plant life is to be forced into hyperabundance by the dust from a pepper box. Millions of dollars have been thus expended and passed into the coffers of the acquisitive to the impoverishing of the soil and its owner, or at most leaving neither the gainer. So far as we have been able to see, we present no flash protest against these fancy manures, but the plain matter of fact results, the truth of which is now being verified. We must look within our own limits for the means of increased fertility of the soil, if the operation pays the cost.

Next comes the famous *Rescue Grass*, rich in every material to gratify the appetite of the most fiction loving. No mountebank panacea was ever ushered into the world with more unreal claims. Even our friend Broomsedge, relaxed his scepticism, and sowed a peck of the precious *Rescue*, that wonderful Rescue, that neither heat or cold, wet or dry, poverty or richness of soil, or any other thing, could check its rampant growth. Fat chickens, fat pigs, fat horses, fat mules, and of necessity fat folks, and with all this fatness, the soil too, was promised to be enriched by this wholesale fattening process. We too, sowed half a bushel of seed. Ah, reader! could you see it now, this veritable twenty-sixth of April, Anno Domini, 1855, in all its "pomp and circumstances" of glorious *humbug*, It would be a comment on the hunibugability of poor Abbeville.

Next comes the Oregon Pea. A dollar a pint! Spirit of Herbemont, shield us! Little did you dream when you first brought the pea from La Belle, France, that it was to play such antics in the world of *humbug*, years after your much esteemed form had passed into the cold grave! But so it is, the vetch had travelled and under a new name comes back to us at a dollar a pint!

We are a little afraid to bring into our Melange the fancy cotton seed fever, as we are in

for it to the tune of some dollars. And then, reader, the great Shanghais, Brania Pootrahis, and a host of others in the way of chickens; but we are getting over the thing, and we will say no more about them. Our better-half from the first, gave these Chinese lubberly bantlings the cold shoulder, declaring them to be of no advantage to the barn-yard or anywhere else. Well, we give it up, woman's wright forever. It will be a long time before the South will cease to be the dupes of Northern propagandists in the way of concentrated and fancy manures, chickens, pigs, cows sheep and peas.

Next comes making corn with little or no summer culture. This we think has got the go-by by two dry summers, as the test of the principle, or rather the want of principle,

"Plow deep while sluggards sleep,

Is the way to make corn to sell and keep."

is pretty good advice to farmers of all grades and shades.

We will bring into our mixture another feature of the fiction loving principle, in the way of emanations from the press, the truth of which we leave to every man's consciousness. On almost every table or bookcase, we find a pile of monthlies from the North, but where do, we find the Farmer and Planter; light, trashy, hum-drum stuff is swallowed and paid for, while our own literature, the farmers literature is scarcely seen. This is a comment on the whole thing, telling the tale more strongly than we could do in a moth's writing, with our writing fit in full blast. Fie, fie, Carolina Farmers!

You should support your own press which labors for the exposition of the errors, and the illustration of the truths of your profession, and chronicles the present condition of agriculture for the benefit of the present and after ages. The press works for the advancement of your business, for its improvement and progress; to that position its importance demands, and to the highest state of perfection it is capable of. It is a truism, boast as we may, that improvement in agriculture, so far as its true interests are concerned, is but dimly figured to an extent of almost obscurity. Why, we ask, is this so? It should be sternly and truthfully looked into, and the remedy unceasingly sought, and skilfully and surely applied.

There is a sprinkling of savageism yet lurking in the constitution of society, which stamps its markings in the opinions, customs and usages of the age, the energies and power of society is not yet directed in the right way, the nobler and more exalted faculties are not rightly

directed. This may astound the ultra progressivist, and the man of many conceits who think society has reached the acme of perfection. We need not cross the wave of the Atlantic to verify the fact. Look at the North with all its boasted refinement; the inferior and abasing faculties are let loose in defiance of law and order; the sacred right of property is ignored; right, and truth, and justice are trampled under the foot of lawless passion; fanatical violence is the substitute for reason; murderous force is employed as argument, and still we, of the South, tamely submit, and pamper their press with the death shriek of our own press from positive starvation wringing in our ears, re-echoed by every breeze. Think of this, Southerners, and be wise in time.

We next pass on to the weather, winter, crops and whatever may turn up to garnish and finish our mixture. The agriculturist has now before him a practical exemplification that his business has to do with meteoric arrangement, or as it appears at present, its derangements. The cold dryness of the winter, the excess of heat, the severity of vernal, and we may say, untimely frosts. April with its unparalleled heat and dryness, our thermometer in a proper place marked 99½ degrees at half past two o'clock on Thursday, the 19th, a long continued smoky, hazy sky, all together has told fearfully on every thing of vegetable life. Wheat is scorched by sun and wind, oats killed out by winter and spring freezing, later sowing parched up with heat and dryness. This is no imaginary picture, it is true to the letter. Man begins to quail a little under the unusual state of weather; but there is no retreat, no compromise, it is stern destiny, good and evil everywhere, and reasoning man should profit by the present condition, he must learn wisdom of the ant, and provide for these disturbances. Bring down the cotton production to insure surplus of provisions, and such seasons will cease to alarm. All countries have felt what we are now feeling; it is no new feature in the world's history. As far back in time as man has chronicled, we see the same disastrous condition written down. The ignorant are pregnant with wonder and fear, the improvident are made to feel their want of economy, and good may result to some. The press is telling the marvellous tale of a hairy child being born somewhere in some State, that spoke three ominous words and then died! No longer wonder, ye men of the nineteenth century, at the delphic oracles, the story of the hairy child, and the oracles of old, are all de-

pended on the fiction-loving principle of man's constitution, the principle that links the savage to the civilized man; all these things almost declare to us that reasoning man in the face of all boastings, is not as yet a perfectly rational being.

To close our Melange, we will briefly notice the call for an Agricultural Convention of our State.

First, is there a necessity for such a Convention? The best answer to this question, is the present condition of agriculture and all its interests in the State—blind indeed must be the man who looks the question fairly in the face and sees not the fast downward tendencies and destructive influences of the present *no system* in agricultural management; this must be conceded by the consciousness of all. But the question comes up, what is to be done by a Convention? This we are compelled to say is not so easily answered. Reform is what we want—a reform that cannot be achieved by conventional gatherings. It must depend on individual action. A Convention may prompt a beginning of the good work, for when man rubs against his fellow-man for peaceful and good purposes, sparks are produced that often give out a mutual light, from which prejudice and error flee away into the darkness of the past. Man loves the approbation of his fellow-man. This is a part and parcel of his nature, and in a Convention individual thought becomes the property of the many, and in this way some good would be done. Individual improvements in any branch of agriculture would become common property, expanding in its influences that otherwise might be pent up and finally lost to the world. There is no doubt a Convention would conduce to bring individual effort to a more vigorous activity, and thus establish many centres of reform which would have a bettering influence all around.

Every other profession has its central point from which knowledge radiates. Surely that profession which sustains the life of all, deserves at least an equal care. The evil in the way of this and all other improvement is, that common pretension claimed by all of being farmers by intuition, knowing too much, or at least knowing enough to make as much truck as any of the *book-farmers* "and a leetle more."

For some cause that is in a great measure hidden from us, there is an apathy in the agriculturist that has no prototype in all other professions. The agriculturist is careless to perpetuate his opinions, he cares for no memorial

of his doings and thinkings, as evidenced by the struggle for existence of the Farmer and Planter. One paper has already been consigned among the things that are past. Many agricultural societies have had an ephemeral existence, and waned into obscurity profound.

There is a rude polity that yet rules and embarrasses improvement into life, and shape, and form of this great business of life. It is yet under the rule of ignorance, unregulated in its conjectures, which are often the substitutes for facts. Many other pursuits have worked out a refined and complicated machinery of systematic rules to govern their movements in progression to the perfect. But agriculture is left to grope in the dark in wild and unregulated condition. It has yet never received the fostering care of the State—the business has to do with too much *dirt* for the refined taste of the legislator—these men are seldom taken from the plow—lawyers make up the majority of legislative bodies, the effects of which are more than shadowed in the accumulation of conflicting and often superimposed laws annually resulting, till the whole is so fogged and tangled that hardly anybody knows what the laws are; but we are finding no fault, only stating what we think is truth, which the polity of our government allows us to speak out fearlessly.

We think a Convention should be called, agitation is the soul of thought, progression must have a beginning, and a thousand lights, however feeble, may by the combination, give a blaze of intellectual light that will drive error into the distance. We never had much faith in political conventions, but hope better things from a convention of agriculturists where the demagogues' voice will have no rule, for there will be no temptation, no scramble for office of profit or honor, every farmer will be a sovereign.

We hope the agriculturist will arise to the work, and never rest till his profession assumes in the circle of sciences, independent station, and establish fundamental principles, dependent on its own facts, worked out and verified by nicely observed and often repeated experience. Nature is the field, and the laws of nature are the problems to be worked out into fundamental dogmas for our rule and faith. We now close our Melange, and beg pardon of editor and reader for its length and weakness.

ABBEVILLE.

Chinquepin Ridge, Abbeville Dist., S. C., April 26, '55

Very great care should be taken with your fruit trees: cultivation is necessary and will repay an hundred fold.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Write for your Paper.

MR. EDITOR:—Under the editorial head of the April number, you remark that but one original communication had been received for that number. Could any higher evidence be given of the apathy which has smitten the agricultural class of South Carolina. It is a pretty story to be told of us, that in a State extensively agricultural—one in which almost every industrial enterprize save that of agriculture, has proved a total failure. We say it is a pretty story to be told of us, that by all the arts of pufing, begging and dunning we can make use of, one little agricultural journal at the minnium price of \$1 per annum, cannot be sustained. It is a comfortable reflection truly, to one proud of calling South Carolina his home, that while he can boast of the value of her real and personal astate being \$283,867.709, the cash value of her land being \$82,431.684, and her surplus agricultural prodnets many millions, that there is stil got spirit enough to be found among the proprietors of "29,969 farms in cultivation," to furnish more than one monthly communication on rgriculture, to the only agricultural journal in the State. We are a reading, thinking, writing people surely, and have reason to be proud of the rapid progress of our "glorious pursuit." We thank one friend of Sylvania, for his kind appreciation of our humble efforts, but we assure him that he places by far too high a value upon them. We have not been able to dip our pen in any preparation caustic enough to make an impression upon this thick-skinned generation, and have little hope of doing so. We write now and then for the same reason that Billy Bumble gave for talking, because we can't help it, and with llttle hope of doing any good to the cause. After all we fear that we are more in want of readers than writers. There is a goodly nuinber of gentlemen who take an agricultural journal, as they say, "just for the cause," not that they can learn anything from its pages. Oh no, they are past that, they have tried everything and know what is good. Happy complacent gentlemen, truly! We heard one of this very class, after reading a capital agricultural paper for one year, say "he believed he would take it no longer—he found it followed pretty much his way of managing anyhow. i. e., piling up his cotton and corn stalks on all the rocky knobs, and in the gullies of his farm, scattering his straw and chaff over the bald spots of the farm, plowing up and down hills to have his rows straight, &c., &c., A farmer who boasts that he never took an agricultu-

ral paper in his life, informed us the other day that "lime was a capital manure for corn—he wet his corn and rolled it in lime before planting, and neither hogs, crows or worms would touch it, and came up strong and grew off at once." Another one of the same sort assured us that a teaspoon of salt to a hill of corn would double the yield and could be told the year round. Now some people who have read the papers know how much of this to believe, but do you reckon a volume could convince one of these men that he didn't know more than the writer of it. We have just about as much hope of seeing a steam boat come up Big Branch, as we have of seeing a revival—no I will not say that—an awakening of the agricultural spirit in South Carolina.

BROOMSEDGE.

Big Branch, May 1st, 1855.

For the Farmer and Planter.

A great humbug—Mr. Ives' Resene Grass.

MR. EDITOR:—I am prompted by a sense of duty, in giving to the public, through your columns, the result of my experience with this much lauded grass. I will not undertake to say, that with other persons and under other circumstances, the result may not have been more favorable. I can say for myself, that I have experienced disappointment as to every one of the good qualities for which the grass was recommended so highly, and from what I have heard, the disappointment has been general.

From one of the agents of the producer, I purchased for the sum of \$5, a peck of the seed put up in a bag. I say a peck, for that was the quantity nominally, though it was in fact considerably short of a peck. It was planted on about a half acre of ground. The land was of a medium quality as to fertility. It had a dressing of good stable manure, and would have yielded a good crop of oats or rye. It was planted at the time recommended, and in other respects according to the directions given in the printed circular.

In the first place, it came up badly. I doubt if more seed than one in fifty vegetated. As the ground occupied was but half an acre, the plants that came up were suffered to stand. I thought they would suffice for an experiment to test the value of the grass; I also thought that if the experiment approximated in the result, the promises held out in the advertisements of the vendor, I might gather from the few stalks as much seed perhaps as I had planted. Today (19th April,) the Rescue Grass is hardly visible among a sparse growth of native weeds, &c.,

that have sprung up on the ground. It (the Rescue Grass,) is now going to seed at the height of three or four inches from the ground. It has not stooled, each plant having one and (rarely) two small heads, something like that of rye, but not more than an eighth as long. It has at this time attained a state of development to show what it will do, and that is actually nothing. The disappointment is complete in every particular promised and expected. While looking over my Rescue Grass patch, I could not repress a smile as the old fable of the mountain and the *ridiculus mouse*, occurred to my memory.

AGRICOLA.

April, 19th 1855.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Rust on Cotton and Remedy.

DEAR MAJ.:—I see an inquiry in the December No. of the Farmer and Planter, by J. D. W., for some plan to prevent rust on cotton. In the January No. I see an answer by F. B. I do not know the cause, neither do I pretend to be correct in views as a general thing. I only give my opinion and experience. My opinion in relation to the cause is this: It is some kind of ore in the earth that causes it. Last year the rust commenced on my cotton where there was neither briers, weeds or grass. I noticed it some three or four days—it was spreading rapidly. I took salt and sowed broadcast all round the place where the rust had taken hold. This I did while the dew was on, and to my astonishment, not another stalk was touched with the rust. I examined the subsoil, and found that there was a thick bed of iron ore, some 8 inches below the surface. I know that weeds, &c., have never caused the rust in this section since I lived here. A plantation joining mine, was literally used up by rust last year. I recommended the use of salt—but no sir; I believe in no such stuff, you got it from an agricultural paper, &c. I examined the land, the soil was very porous and sandy, with a rotten iron ore below. I am fully convinced that it is some kind of ore that causes the rust, and I am as fully convinced that salt used as above will stop it. I also am confident from my own experience, that salt thrown broadcast on the land after it is bedded, before planting, will prevent it.

SAND LEVEL.

Columbus, Miss., April 21, 1855.

Don't be afraid to plow deep. A few more oats in the spring, will make many more at harvest.

Judge not hastily, but examine well before you decide.

For the Farmer and Planter.

"Broomsedge"—Complimentary.

DEAR SIR:—Enclosed please find \$2.00 for the Farmer and Planter, and excuse my former negligence, that is not paying as I was accustomed to do, in advance.

I was glad to see our citizen, W. J. D., taking such interest in the science of agriculture, and can say to him that he can see and hear much to his interest in that department by a visit to our esteemed Broomsedge. Although we would not claim for him Gov. Johnson's equal in many things, yet we regard him by far his superior in *agricultural education*. Whilst we acknowledge that we have read with the liveliest interest the productions of Broomsedge, we must admit that more can be learned by a visit to him on his farm. There you can see and judge; so visit him Col. D., and I will guarantee that you will go home feeling yourself fully compensated for the ride. I heartily second your motion that we take some steps to be represented in the State Convention, and furthermore, I would like much to see the old Agricultural Society of this District revived. What say you to that.

W. K. S.

Unionville, April 22, 1855.

How to Judge a Horse.

The following rules for judging the character of a horse are going the rounds of the agricultural journals. It may be useful, therefore, to give them in connexion with a few comments.

If the color be light sorrel or chestnut, his feet, legs and face white, these are marks of kindness. (1.)

If he is broad and full between the eyes, he may be depended on as a horse of good sense, and capable of being trained to anything.

As respects such horses, the more kindly you treat them the better you will be treated in return. Nor will a horse of this description stand a whip if well fed. (2.)

If you want a safe horse, avoid one that is dish-faced; he may be so far gentle as not to care, but he will have too much go-ahead in him to be safe for every body.

If you want a fool horse of great bottom get a horse of deep bay, but not a white hair about him; if his face is a little dished so much the worse. Let no man ride such a horse who is not an adept in riding—they are always tricky and unsafe. (3.)

If you want one who will never give out, never buy a large, overgrown one. A black horse cannot stand heat, nor a white one cold. (4.)

If you want a gentle horse get one with more or less white about him—the more the better. Many suppose that the parti-colored horses belonging to circuses, shows, &c., are selected for their oddity. But the selections thus made are on account of their great docility and gentleness.

Comments.—(1) One of the most tricky animals we ever knew was a sorrel mare, with a white face and feet. Among other stratagems, she would afflict lameness on the road, and hold her nose to the water without drinking to deceive her driver.

(2.) We once owned a light bay horse, with white feet and face, whose hide appeared more nearly to resemble that of a rhinoceros than anything else. It required a strong and swift arm to wield a whip so as to produce an impression, although the horse was fat and well fed.

(3.) We have now a fine deep bay horse, the safest horse to drive we ever possessed, without a single white hair on his face or feet; a woman or child may drive him, and he cares not a straw for a locomotive whilst within three yards of him.

(4.) Nothing is more true than that a white horse will endure the sun's rays best, and a black one becomes quickly hot under their heating influence, other things being equal. This is a fact not sufficiently known or heeded by those who are compelled to drive horses in hot weather. But we question whether a white horse suffers any more from the cold than a black one. If animal heat is like solar heat, the white animals would suffer least, for whatever absorbs heat most rapidly, parts with it most readily. Probably animal heat has less to do with color than solar heat has; yet there is a reason why arctic animals, as the polar bear and snow owls, are clothed with white Snow, white wool, and swan's down, are efficient non-conductor of heat. White mittens are probably rather better than black ones. And if White horses are tenderest, it must be from some other cause.—*Country Gentleman*.

Caula Rapa.—Remarks at the Farmer's Club New York—Reported by J. Pyne Lowe:

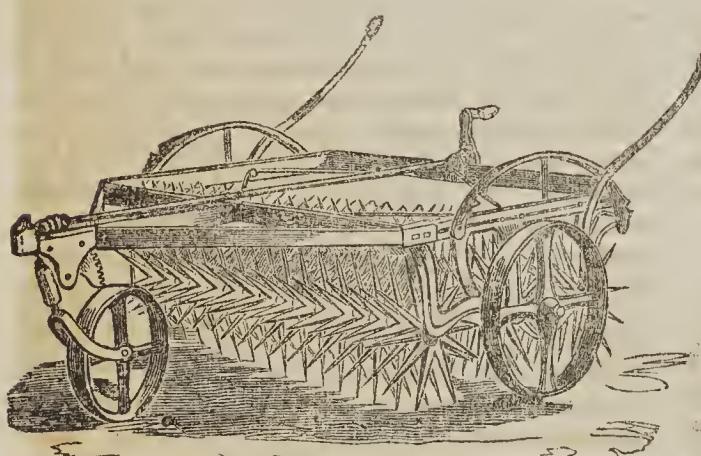
Professor Mapes said:—Mr. Chairman, this seems to be a hybrid between the cauliflower and some of our turnips. We have thirteen kinds, of some of which I have grown large crops. There is now a white one, which if gathered when young, is equal almost in flavor, if thoroughly cooked, to the cauliflower, and has almost the keeping qualities of many kinds of turnips. It is extremely white, and resembles what is called the White Vienna. Some of the various kinds yield very large crops; are not, subject to any of the difficulties of the Turnip; are not attacked by the fly; may be transplanted, and always succeed. They grow full as close as turnips. I have no doubt they will yield a thousand or twelve hundred bushels to the acre. They might be profitable raised for market, and are superior to the turnips for feeding purposes, because they do not give the milk the flavor that turnips when not fed immediately after milking are likely to communicate. This vegetable should be introduced more general. I have the seeds of better kind, and I will bring some for distribution if possible, at the next meeting of the Club.—*Woking Farmer*.

Grape Disease.

It is well known, probably to most of our readers, that the grape crop in Madera, Teneriffe, and some of the other principle wine countries, where the people depend almost wholly upon this fruit for the supply of the necessaries of life, has been several times cut off by the appearance of a deadly blight upon the vines. The effect has been terrible upon the lower class of the inhabitants. In Portugal, also, this disease has likewise appeared among the vineyards. As yet no remedy has been discovered to counteract the disease, but, like the potato rot, its poison spreads without hindrance.

**Madera Grape Blight.**

Our engraving shows the appearance of this blight on the grapes, when subjected to the power of a strong microscope. It is a club-shaped parasite, of the fungus kind, with a strong mushroomy but disagreeable smell, growing luxuriantly on the grape, each plant or branch being intersected by several transparent lobes. To detach them from the grape some comparative force is necessary, although to the naked eye their appearance is only that of white dust. The effect produced on the affected grapes is first a withering, then a drying and cracking, protrusion of the seeds, and death. The round hard plumpness leaves the grape when once it is covered with the blight.—*Peoples Journal*.

**NORWEGIAN HARROW.****Useful Receipts.**

We find the following recipes recommended in the Northern Farmer. The remedy for colic is said to be infallible.

For Colic or Choleramorbus—Take one tablespoon full of burdock seed, pound it, and pour half a pint of boiling water on it, let it steep a few minutes, give the patient half a tea cupful warm, sweetened with sugar, once in fifteen minutes.

In severe cases of Billious Colic, tobacco soaked in warm water, and laid on when the pain is most severe will be found beneficial.

Effectual Cure for Rheumatism.—Take one oz. of sulphur, one half oz. of gum guacum, one-fourth oz. of salpetre and two nutmegs, the whole to be pulverized, and put into twelve do. of molasses; take one teaspoonful every night on going to bed.

Cure for Corns—One teaspoonful of tar, one of coarse brown sugar, and one of saltpetre;

Croskill's Norwegian Harrow.

This implement is very generally used in England, and proves a very important aid in the pulverization of the soil. When used immediately after plowing, it breaks and pulverises the furrows, leaving from three to four inches depth of fine mould properly prepared for seed, and works on moist land without clogging. The frame and side levers are made strong, with a new invented horizontal regulator. The true incline of the harrow spikelets or rowel parts, when working in the soil, is by this regulated so exactly as to work with best effect, and saves a horse power in draught.—*Peoples Journal*.

the whole to be warmed together and spread on kid leather, and apply it to the corn.

To Remove Grease Spots from Silk—Take the yolk of an egg, mix it with a little warm water (but not scald it) rub it on the spots with a soft brush till the grease is out, wash it off in warm water and rinse it in cold water.

For Spitting Blood—Take a tablespoonful of sage juice in a little honey three times a day.

Wedding Cake—Sixteen pounds of flour, six do. of sugar, six do. of rasins, five do. of butter, one quart of wine, three pints new milk, one pint yeast, two dozen eggs, one ounce of cinnamon, one do. of mace, one do. of cloves, and the same of nutmeg.

Loaf Cake—Two pounds of flour, one of butter, one of sugar, four eggs, half a pint of yeast, and half a pound of rasins..

A lazy boy will make a lazy man, and a slovenly boy will continue slovenly as long as he lives.



The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

VOL. VI., NO. 6, : : : : June 1855.

BLACK LIST.

W.M. B. PALMER refuses to pay for two volumes of the Farmer and Planter. Reason:—We did not exact our published terms—payment in advance—he was, therefore, not *bound* to pay. This specimen of honesty paid our former agent, Mr. DOUTHIT, for one volume, but made the, to him, happy discovery after he had taken near two other volumes. We suppose he must have studied *law* if not rascality in the meantime.

His Post Office is Columbus, Miss. We have some other names in about the same latitude, that we fear will have to go into the list.

Contributions to our Paper.

Our readers will no doubt be pleased, as we especially are, again to welcome to a place in our columns communications from the devoted friends of our cause, "Broomsedge" and "Abbeville," with others not so well known to them, but with whom we are sure they will be gratified to cultivate a better acquaintance.

We have been pained to hear that the cause of the non-appearance of our esteemed friends, "Broomsedge" and "Abbeville" in some of our late numbers, was serious indisposition; but we are most thankful to the ruler of events that they are both spared and at their posts again, ready to show us their faith by their works. May all others take them as fit examples to follow in their most laudable and praiseworthy objects, so that the Farmer & Planter may never be found wanting its due proportion of original matter. To our new as well as old contributors, we would say welcome friends at all times to a place in our picture, take it and occupy it, there is room enough for all. If you are crowded out of one number, as some of you have been the present month, you shall appear in the next. Your productions will not suffer by age, they are sound enough to keep. We invite all, *every reader* of the Farmer and Planter, to contribute to his paper, tell your brethren whatever may be of advantage to them to know, whether relating to agriculture, horticulture or mechanics. Even if you are not a practiced or *good* writer in your own estimation, no matter, write it down in the plain manner that you would verbally relate it to a neighbor—let us all as well as him have the benefit of it. Writing for your paper is one way, and a very important one, to make it popu-

lar and keep it up. You must not depend on your editor to do the writing altogether, he has a great deal of reading to do in order to make suitable selections for the paper. This is more labor than many of you would suppose, and of which he is greatly relieved by your contributions, and consequently the more *you* write the more you enable *him* to write. We trust in conclusion, that all will take what we consider a proper view of this subject "and act accordingly."

Land for Sale.

I have a valuable tract of land near Pendleton, that I would sell at a fair price and on accommodating terms. The tract contains 700 acres, about 300 of which is under good fence and in cultivation. This place was a few years since owned and occupied by the late venerable F. K. HUGER, by whom it was much improved and embellished. The dwelling house is large and conveniently arranged, say about 100 by 45 feet, 12 or 14 rooms and 8 fire-places. Kitchen, smoke-house, dairy with a dry-well, ice-house, bathing-room, &c., all ample. In the garden, which is laid out with much taste, there is a hot-house of pisa work, a grapery and fruit of the most select varieties, with shrubbery of all kinds. The out houses are not surpassed by any in the up-country; such as stables for horses and cattle, barns, corn cribs, thrasher and cotton gin houses, with a superior new cotton press, negro houses, blacksmith shop, &c. Several good springs convenient. The road from this place to the village is nearly level, and one of the best carriage roads in the up-country. But if you desire to buy a pleasant and healthy residence in the up-country, in full view of a long range of mountains, and on which you may raise provisions of every kind in abundance, then come and see and judge for yourself.

Fire.

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the card and advertisement of Mr. SITTON, who has met with a very serious loss in the destruction of his extensive carriage and trimming shops, with a large amount of recently laid in trimmings and other materials for carriages, including a well filled yard of superior lumber. Mr. SITTON commenced life a poor young man, but by his industry and steady habits has accumulated a snug property; but this is a serious drawback, and one that is much regretted by all who know him. He is not disengaged, however, but intends to "try again." We would, therefore, recommend a liberal public wanting anything in his line that he has left, to patronize him, and in so doing put into his hands the means to re-establish himself in business.

The Agricultural Convention.

The advocates of this important measure are beginning to speak out. Several communications have been received in which the writers express themselves in favor of holding a convention at some suitable time. Some of these will appear in our present and next numbers, whilst others being of a private nature will be withheld except, perhaps, a short extract on the subject.

One of the first and most zealous advocates of the

measure from not seeing many responses yet out in the F. & P., and from the lukewarmness of those who even express themselves favorably to it, writes us rather despondingly; but at the same time advocates an effort being made at all events. He says, "What do you think of the plan of addressing a letter or circular to a few of the most prominent planters in each District, requesting them personally to call meetings of their fellow-planters, and appoint delegates?" Well, it is true that "what is everybody's business is nobody's business," and that if the responsibility was placed on a few, it would more likely ensure some action. But nevertheless, from what has already been said on the subject, it seems to us that every reader of our paper should consider himself individually addressed and appealed to, and that if in favor of action he should require no more urgent appeal to bring him out. Let our friends everywhere, therefore, consider the Farmer and Planter the "circular," and the first proposal and subsequent advocates of the measure, the appeal direct to them. May they do so and act accordingly. It will be impossible, however, now to have anything done in time for a July Convention. Let it be fixed at some more distant day, say in October or November, at any rate before the meeting of the Legislature. In the meantime let the friends of the cause go to work and if possible organize Agricultural Societies, or if not Societies, Clubs, in every District in which none exist, and let them appoint delegates to meet in Columbia. We will suggest the first Monday in November. What say you, farmers and planters?

Improved Stock.

Mr. MORTON, to whose advertisement of improved Suffolk Swine we have already called the attention of our readers, says to us in a letter recently received from him,—"If customers have any doubt about the stock, we will, by your giving us the address, forward them, and unless they are what we represent, we will ask for no pay." This is surely a fair proposition, and should encourage every one wanting such stock, to buy of them as there can be no chance for imposition even if the character of the gentlemen was not above suspicion. We will order stock for any of our subscribers if desired to do so, with pleasure. It will be recollect that the Messrs. MORTON have also the fine milking Jersey stock of cattle, represented in a late number of our paper; all of which may be purchased on the most favorable terms.

The Crops and Seasons.

We are pleased to say to our readers that crops of every kind, and especially wheat and oats, have much improved since the rains of the 3rd and 4th of May, in the up-country and in all other parts from which we have heard through our exchanges. For the want of rain previous to the formation of the head of the wheat it is shorter than usual, but now promises to be well filled. Oats were much killed out by heavy frosts of the spring, but where not so much missing as to give weeds a place—will make tolerable crops. We had a light frost on the mornings of the 8th and 9th, but not

sufficient to do injury. There has been some complaint of bad stands of cotton, but much has made its appearance since the rains, that had not before come up. We hope our readers have done deep plowing in the preparation of their land and first working of their crops, as we have every prospect of another dry year; and if you have no suitable lots already sown, be sure to sow liberally of corn on your best oat or wheat land after harvest for fodder. Plow the land deep and subsoil as deep as possible in the furrow intended for the corn, and in the two side furrows at least. This will insure a fair crop even should the weather prove dry.

"The Little Giant."

A "subscriber" asks our opinion of "Scott's Little Giant Corn and Cob Mill," which we see a cut and description of in most of our exchanges. In answer we can say we have never seen one of them, and although they are spoken of as a most efficient mill, yet we think the price is much higher than any farmer ought to pay for a cob crusher, for there is not one that we have ever seen that makes the meal fine enough to feed to stock of any kind profitable, and as some believe, *safely*. An old fashioned Cast Bark Mill will crush the cob small enough to feed with the grain from the shoe of a corn mill, where all such meal should before feeding it to stock be ground as fine as the meal we eat. The Bark Mill will not cost more than half as much as the "Little Giant." We have one that has been in use many years, which cost some 18 or 20 dollars when new. In this we crush most of the corn and cob fed to our stock of horses, cattle and hogs; but before feeding it is ground fine at a corn mill. Thus prepared, it is undoubtedly a great saving of corn, even with the loss of toll for grinding.

Since writing the above, we have "seen the elephant," (the Little Giant.) One has been brought into our neighborhood, by Col. HAYNE. When he gets it up we shall endeavor to see it work and report accordingly.

To the Rescue Again.

We very much regret to find that many of our subscribers have been so much disappointed in their expectations and anticipations of the superior quality of this grass; but at the same time may be permitted to express our gratification that all have not been disappointed in it. In private letters from some of our subscribers remitting their dues, it is very favorably spoken of. We also have a communication now before us from a most respectable source, which will appear in our July number, in which the writer expresses himself altogether pleased with it. And we understand that a most respectable lady—one with whom we have been long acquainted—has cultivated it very successfully in the town of Marietta, Ga. We expect a communication from her on the subject. From our own experience, as well as that of some others as communicated to us, we must conclude that much depends in its successful culture on the quality of the land on which we may attempt to grow it. Though some of our correspondents have failed on what they

considered usually a most productive soil and *that* well prepared, yet it may be that such soil was deficient in some one or more important and essential ingredients to its full development. It would be but reasonable to suppose however, that a grass which has been so much landed as a renovator of exhausted soils, could not be so very squeamish about its food. We are now, the 20th of May, gathering the seed from ours. It is as Buckstock said about his wheat: "low but thin, thank God," and without a proper regard to the quality of the land on which it grows, might be considered decidedly a failure. Yet, having had some experience in growing other crops on the same land, we are not disposed to condemn the grass and give it up. If we live, we shall try it again, once at least, before abandoning its culture, and hope others that have failed, will do the same.

The Cultivation of Sandy Land.

Why is it that even "book farmers, (we need not ask the question when applied to the anti-books,) or most of them, continue to pursue the old "as daddy did it," and unscientific practice of cultivating their sandy bottoms as they would and do stiff clay and wet soils? We ask why is it?—can't we get out of the old track—can't the "book" which we profess to rely on—can't reflection teach us better? We are led to ask the above question from having but recently passed through a sandy bottom field of a highly respected neighbor and subscriber, not a hundred miles from our village, (and his is not the only field we might refer to on the same stream on which some of our most successful farmers and planters cultivate their broad bottoms.) This field after having been well broken preparatory to the corn crop, was furrowed at, we think, about five feet distance. In these furrows the corn was drilled without stint, and ridged on by, we suppose, a jack plow. In this condition it lay till the corn was beautifully up (we pass through this field frequently.) No objection to operations thus far, but to the first working, and if the same plow is used to all subsequent ones, we do most uncompromisingly enter our protest. This plowing seems to have been with the same plow with which the corn was covered, deep and well bedded up to the corn with a deep, wide (water?) furrow left open between beds. Thus the work was very handsomely, but we can but believe most injuriously to the future crop done. And this is about the custom most prevalent in our up-country. Some do the after work either with the shovel run light, or the shovel second plowing, and "sweep" or buzzard afterwards. The hoes following each plowing where there is a suitable proportion of hoes to plows, and provided cotton does not interfere. So that our friend is not the *only* planter of our acquaintance whose practice we would condemn; and he is probably less at fault than many others that have had more experience in cultivating such lands, for although he has been a successful planter it was on soil of a very different character. Furthermore, we have come to the conclusion (his absence from home has prevented our enquiry,) that the cultivation of this crop has been

left entirely to his overseer, who is a respectable, industrious man, and an excellent manager; but he is a young man, and consequently has commenced with it just as he would have done with low, stiff, creek bottoms by throwing up high beds for his corn to stand on, with deep open water furrows between each bed.

Now it may be asked by our neighbor and others, --as you object to our mode of culture, will you inform us how you would cultivate such land? This we will do in but few words. After the breaking, which we should do with a bull-tongue, unless there was much vegetable matter to turn under, in which case we should use a good two-horse turning plow, and in the latter case would run a *heavy* roller over the land before planting, we would plant in either case by running a light furrow to drop in and two others to cover. We should cultivate altogether with the sweep or buzzard—the hoes following to remove grass and weeds from between and around the stalks of corn on the line of the row. In addition to this mode of culture, we have no doubt that the crop would be increased by running after each sweeping out twice in a row, a cast iron roller, say about two or two and a half feet long, made in two parts, and as heavy as one strong horse could pull. Such land being too light and open either for the retention of water or to embrace sufficiently close the small fibrous roots of the corn plant, the reasons for the above will at once become obvious to reader.

State Agricultural Society.

The Edgefield Advertiser has suggested the formation of a State Agricultural Society to hold annual fairs at Columbia, and the Laurensville Herald approves the suggestion. There is no doubt great benefit is to be derived from such an organization and our only wonder is that the one in existence several years ago was allowed to fall through.* We feel safe in assuring the Advertiser that Chester is ready to enter the lists with Edgefield and that when she enters she will certainly be one of the last to cry *peccavi* (I have enough.) What say you, Fishing Creek friends? What say you, "solid men" of Chester, one and all? Shall Edgefield and Laurens bear the palm alone! We think we have your answer, and we hope you will remember Edgefield is hard to beat and do your best; exert yourselves handsomely and you need not fear the result.—Chester Staddard.

*And almost every one else may wonder at it brother MICHAEL; but we think we can give you the cause. Our people of late years have been so much occupied in seeing that the State suffer no detriment that we have not had time to attend to such trivial matters. The last President, the lamented SZABROOK, carried the Society after it became old and decrepid on his own shoulders until it so wore him down that he was compelled to throw it off, and there it lies yet. But it seems our friends of the Advertiser and Herald are about to take it up again. By all means let us help them—let us give a "long pull, and a strong pull, and a pull altogether," and I think we will raise it.—ED. F. & P.

Agricultural Society.

On sale-day last a meeting was held at Union C. H., by the citizens of the District, at which

an Agricultural Society was organized to be known as the Union District Agricultural Society. The following gentlemen were unanimously elected Officers:

Col. R. J. Gage, President; Dr. W. K. Sims, Vice President; T. B. Jeter, Recording Secretary; Col. W. S. Dogan, Corresponding Secretary.

We are glad to see Union taking such a lively interest in this matter, and from the persons engaged in it we have no doubt but that the society will soon be in successful operation. Most of our neighboring Districts either have such societies or are about forming them; yet Spartanburg does not seem to be awake on this subject.

We hope soon to be able to note a different state of affairs in our District.—*Spartanburg Express.*

Just as it should be in every District in the State where no Society exist. If Societies are gotten up and such men appointed officers as the Union Society is honored with, we will venture the assertion that the result will be most favorable to the agricultural interest of the District. We have forwarded a copy of the Farmer and Planter for the Society, as we will do to every other one that may be got up in the State in the year 1855, free of charge.—ED. F. & P.

Less Land and Deeper Plowing.

We copy the following from Horace Greeley's excellent address before the Indiana State Agricultural Society at its annual Fair, in October, 1853. Politically we dislike the man, but he is capable of teaching us something that it will be well to treasure on the subject of agriculture.—ED. F. & P.

I read very few old books; I can hardly find time to master the best new ones; but I have no doubt that those who do read the very oldest treatises on Agriculture which have survived the ravages of time, will find Cato, or Seneca, or Columella, or whoever may be the author in hand, talking to the farmers of his day very much as our farmers are now generally talked to, and inculcating substantially the same truths: "Plow deeper, fertilize more thoroughly, cultivate less land, and cultivate it better;" such, I have no doubt, has been the burden of Agricultural admonition and exhortation from the days of Homer and Moses. It seems incredible to modern skepticism that millions of Hebrews could have for ages inhabited the narrow and rocky land of Judea; and it would be hard to believe, if we were ignorant of the Agrarian law of Moses under which, as population increased, the inalienable patrimony of each family became smaller and smaller, and the cultivation of course better and better. Very few of us are at all aware of the average capacity of an arable acre, if subjected to thorough scientific culture. Many a family of four or five persons has derived a generous subsistence for year after year from a single acre. The story of a farmer who was compelled to sell off half his little estate of eight or ten acres, and was most agreeably surprised by finding

the reward of his labor quite as large when it was restricted to the remaining half as when it was bestowed on the whole, was very current in Roman literature two thousand years ago. Why is it that men persist in running over much land, instead of thoroughly cultivating a little, defying not only Science, but Experience, the wisdom of the fireside as well as that of the laboratory, can only be accounted for by supposing that men have a natural passion for annexation, a pride in extended dominion, or else a natural repugnance to following good advice. Surely, if Wisdom ever cried in the streets, she has been bawling herself hoarse these twenty-five centuries against the folly of maintaining fences and paying taxes on a hundred acres of land in order to grow a crop that might have been produced from ten.

But the sinners against light and knowledge in our day have far less excuse than their remote ancestors, or even their own grandfathers. It was always well to urge deep plowing and the like; but so long as the plow was but a forked log or stick, with one prong sharpened for a coulter, and the other employed as a beam, it was hardly possible to plow thoroughly. In our day, however, the advance from wooden plows through iron points and iron mold-boards, to iron plows, steel points, steel plows, and sub-soiling, has been so signal and decisive that the shiftless creature who with his two lean ponies skims and skins over the fields he ought either to cultivate or let alone; scratching their surface mildly to a depth of three or four inches; sins against such an array of light and knowledge that he is far less excusable than his ancestors who did not pretend to plow at all, but stuck in a seed here and there as they could easiest find a hole or make one, and trusted to Providence to give them an undeserved return for their spiritless and frivolous efforts.

The three main features of Agricultural advancement among the Anglo-Saxon race now-a-days are: 1. Deep plowing, or sub-soiling; 2. Draining; 3. Irrigation. I am quite aware that draining should take precedence in the order of time, yet I believe, in point of fact, deep plowing has led to draining, by demonstrating its necessity, and not draining to deep plowing. We suffer immensely from drought in this country. Probably the aggregate annual loss from drought alone throughout the Union decidedly exceeds, taking one year with another, the entire cost of our Federal Government. Yet we know that the roots of most plants will descend to moisture, no matter how dry the surface, if the earth beneath them is porous, mellow and inviting. Hence we realize the immense importance of deep plowing; and, after doubling our teams and sinking our deepest plows to the beam, we summon to our aid the sub-soil implement, and go down a depth beyond that of any single furrow. But we soon find that the pulverization of the sub-soil, thus attained, has no permanent effect; that the water that leaches down to it settles it into a compact, solid mass, which the roots cannot penetrate; and all our sub-soiling needs to have been done over again. The remedy that readily suggests itself is the freeing of the sub-soil from water by drains

below it, say three to six rows apart, and filled half way up with pebbles, with flat stones forming a sort of culvert, or, still better, laid with draining-tile or hollow brick, placed end to end, and forming a continuous channel from the highest part of any slope or grade to the brook which drains it. And now the sub-soil, supposing the drains made and the drainage-way sufficient, is readily freed from any water settling into it, and long retains the porous and permeable character communicated to it by deep plowing.

Of course, this does not exhaust the good effects of draining. The sub-soil, thus loosened and freed from excessive moisture, becomes a source of food as well as drink to the plants growing above it; for that it is capable of feeding plants, no one, who has observed the rank vegetation growing out of the earth thrown up by draining or digging, can doubt. Instead of being like a slough in wet weather and like a brick in dry, the sub-soil retains sufficient moisture to cheer the plants, but too little to indurate itself. And the mean temperature of the soil, hitherto lowered by the constant evaporation of the water contained in the sub-soil, is raised several degrees by the sun's rays, no longer counteracted by the evaporating process—at least, not to any such extent as before—so that the plants grow more luxuriantly, mature more rapidly, and so are earlier out of danger from frost. And beside this, the constant passage of currents of air through that portion of the drain not occupied by water—and each drain should have an opening at its head as well as at its mouth—is additional source of fertility through the chemical combinations it insures. It would be difficult to overstate the value, the importance, the profit of draining.

Many are accustomed to say, "this land needs no draining;" meaning that it is not habitually too wet. But draining proves as useful, if it is not as imperatively necessary, on dry soil as on wet. On dry lands it is required that the sub-soil, once broken up and pulverized, shall not, by the settling of moisture therein during the wet season, be hardened and rendered impervious again; these lands need to be rendered porous and penetrable by roots to a greater depth because of their dryness; they need to be shielded from the pernicious effects of constant evaporation in cooling the soil, and thus retarding the growth of its plants. There is very much land not worth tilling; but there is none that will justify tillage which would not reward draining.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Morgan Horses.

MR EDITOR:—The improvement of our breed of horses is an object which deserves attention. Of the whole number of horses reared in the country, the proportion of good ones is very small; hence the remarks so frequently made that the rearing of horses is not only a subject of interest to the curious, but it is also one of great importance; and a course which has produced improvement may safely be relied upon for the continuance of similar result.

The origin of the valuable stock of horses

called Morgan, has been the subject of some controversy in this State. Many have supposed that they were of Canadian descent. Some persons, having horses of Canian descent, so have advertised them as Morgan horses, which is very derogatory to the Morgan blood. The stock of Morgan horses is so universally known and admired throughout New England, that it is hardly necessary to repeat their merits. For a seller of horses it is only necessary to establish the fact that his horses are of the Morgan blood, and he meets with ready sale and good prices, and the purchasers are then satisfied. They excel in great endurance, carrying weight a long distance—and as roadsters they excel all other horses in this or any other—are full of noble and generous spirit with such docility of temper that the most timid can drive them: but if put to their mettle, they are a full hand for the best driver. It has been asserted, and cannot, with propriety, be denied that there has never been a stock of horses to equal that of the Morgan. The original Morgan horse was raised by Justin Morgan, of Springfield, Mass., in 1793, and taken to Randolph, Vt., in the fall of 1795—sired by the True Briton or Beautiful Bay, raised by Gen. Jamise Delaney, of Long Island, N. Y., and sired by his imported English horse, Traveller, (known as Moreton's Traveller) who traced directly back to the Godolphin Arabian. Dam of the original Morgan was of the Wild Air breed, sired by the Diamond, who was raised in East Hartford, Conn. Diamond was sired by the Wild Air, known as the Church Horse, the Clinch Horse was sired by the Wild Air, imported from England, by Gen DeLaney, and afterwards taken back to England. He was grandson of the Godolphin Arabian. The dam of the Church Horse was an imported Wild Air mare owned by Captain W. Burt, Springfield, Mass.

The above is the genuine pedigree of the Morgan horse, which is in no way of French Canadian descent, as many have erroneously supposed. The description of the Morgan horse is not in the least exaggerated.—*Maine Farmer.*

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Address of Hon. James L. Orr,
Delivered at the late Meeting of the S. C. Institute.

* * * * *

In late years, new interest has been awakened in improving our agriculture. It is fortunate that apathy has at last been discarded, and that our planters have commenced to repair the branches of former years. Our lands are growing old, cleared hills have been preyed with deep gullies, and many exhausted fields surrendered to the sedge and pine; and still there is no sensible diminution in production, and yet but for the improvements in husbandry in modern years, our agriculture would have sadly languished.—Something has been done, but much remains for the planter to do.

In former years the strength of a rich virgin soil supplied to some extent, the failure of good season and careful culture, but now, that soil is washed off or has tired in the constant drafts on its strength. We must practice liberality to the earth, our most generous benefactress. If

she had grown surly and yielded to our labor in proportion to the aliment we have bestowed upon her, how many long years ago would we have been pinched with want and stricken with famine? She has in the generosity of her nature disdained to retaliate our parsimony, but with a noble benevolence, has tasked her utmost energies to fill our granaries and enrich our coffers. How can we, guided by the impulses of grateful hearts, longer neglect to minister to the modest wants of this disinterested friend, who so steadfastly toils for our happiness? Nourish her with the food her appetite craves, and she will reimburse you with no stinted interest. When she has grown weary, enfeebled by long and faithful service, let her rest. She will soon acquire new strength and vigor and bear you on her generous bosom a teeming harvest. The enlightened donor is never forgotton when she scatters her bounties. Try it.

The pecuniary and personal comfort of the parties would be greatly promoted if the planters of the State were all transformed into farmers. That policy is most pernicious which prompts the planter to swell the number of his cotton bales, and sends him into the provision market to buy his provisions, and into the live stock market to buy the animals used and consumed on the plantation. It makes him merely the supervisor of Cotton fields, to produce profits for the stock and provision dealers; for how little of the roll of cotton money is left to the planter when he has paid his merchant, his grocer and the stock drover.

How much more to his interest, then, to produce all the articles of consumption which may be grown in his own climate and on his own soil? The provisions consumed in this State may be successfully grown in every District, and the first great care of the planter should be to raise his own breadstuffs, pork, beef, and mutton, and with equal care he should rear his own horses and mules for plantation use. System and personal supervision will render the task one of easy accomplishment and it will be an immense saving of the money drain for plantation expenses. His cattle will furnish him milk and butter, and his flocks of sheep with mutton, as well as the fleece to clothe his workers. This policy would require a reduction in the number of acres planted in cotton, but if the policy could become uniform throughout the planting States, the reduction would entail no loss; the reduced crop yielding as large an aggregate as is now brought by full crops, but if loss should follow, it will be more than re-embursed in the falling off of plantation expenses.

The system, order, personal supervision and care for small matters, which this charge would intimate, will beget economy—a personal virtue which our planters do not, in an eminent degree, possess. The cultivation of a great staple, which can be readily converted into cash, disinclines the planter to look after the details of minor interests which being neglected, must be supplied by contributions levied on the staple crop. This labor, being true, whilst the market value of producing only a great staple, is greater than the same amount employed in

farming, the farmer amasses wealth more rapidly than the planter, and for this reason, in thirty years, the States of Kentucky and Tennessee—farm States—will be the wealthiest in the Union, not excepting Mississippi or Louisiana.

They send their surplus products to the South, growing staples and receive the cash. A portion of it is expended by them with the Foreign or Eastern merchant and manufacturer, the balance, which is by no means inconsiderable, remains with them and is invested in public improvements, in building and decorating mansions, and in multiplying personal comforts. What disposition is made of the proceeds of the staple crop by the planter. The Foreign and Eastern merchant and manufacturer receives, in any event, as large a sum as the Kentuckian expends, but the planter's outlay does not stop there. All the pork and bacon, and much of the beef to support his workers for the year, must be bought and paid for, and not unfrequently, the corn and flour, aids in swelling the bill. His horses and mules are worn out or have died during the year, and their number is to be replenished for the next crop. How much of the proceeds of the staple crop remain to be invested in public improvements and personal comforts after this depleting, eastward and westward.

Our planters neglect the education of their sons in the business of planting, and too often have occasion to indulge in bitter regrets for this omission. How few of them on attaining their majority and being presented by a kind father with a plantation and hands are qualified for its judicious supervision? They know nothing of the culture of a crop—of what constitutes a day's labor—of seed time and harvest—of the feeding and caring for their stock. They are deceived by their worker and duped by their overseers. A few years reveal to them the prospect of bankruptcy, and the overseer becomes the owner of the estates which he lately supervised. The original owner, the untrained and uneducated son, is less censurable than the overkind father who neglected to teach him in his youth, the practical duties of the business of life he was appointed to pursue.

But I cannot longer detain you, in pointing out amendments to the domestic policy of South Carolina. I should have been gratified to have given you some thoughts on the culture of the vine, and the manufacture of wines in the middle and upper districts, a new department in husbandry, which will certainly at no distant day absorb profitable much of the agricultural labor of the State, and also some thoughts on leveling and draining the swamp-lands of the lower districts, which would open to cultivation a vast area of lands of whose fertility would compare with the valley of the Nile. I leave these and other topics to those whose experience and greater wisdom will enable them to entertain and instruct you more thoroughly than I can hope to do.

Ticks, or in short, any kind of insects may be destroyed by dropping on them a few drops of an infusion or tincture of lobelia seeds.

Corn Culture in Virginia

MESSRS. EDITORS: I promised you a short article on the culture of corn in the South.

Corn land should be well, deeply broken. Two good, strong horses will do; but three are better, hitched to strong two or three horse-ploughs. (Prouty & Mear, of Boston, make a superior plough; and there are several manufacturers of ploughs and farming implements at Richmond, Va., not often excelled.) Let the ground be broken up eight to ten inches, and if subsoiled, so much the better. If of stiff soil, it should be ploughed in the winter, particularly sod land. Let it be well harrowed in April, and laid off horizontally, so as to disturb the sod; for good land, the rows should be four to four and a half feet wide; if land is level, it may be crossed, and four grains of corn dropped in the check; to be thinned out at the proper season, so as to leave two and occasionally three grains in the hill. If the land is rolling, plant in drills from nine to twelve and eighteen inches, agreeable to the strength of the land, one stalk to be left at a place.

The sod should never be disturbed, but worked on top, with three or five tooth cultivators; twice or thrice going over will do; two strokes of the cultivator in each row at a working, followed with the hoes to get out such weeds, &c., as the cultivator can't reach. Corn does best on sod lands, or clover-lays, as but few weeds follow those crops. As soon as the corn is sufficiently matured, which is generally from the 15th to 20th of September, with us, cut it off near the ground, and stack it snugly, two to three bushels to the shock, secured by bands, one at the top, and the other about two feet below it. If well put up, it will stand all the winter; but it is better to crib it in November or December, and pack away the fodder for your milch cattle, &c.

In cutting up my corn, I usually, if it is heavy, put twelve rows together; first, about every eight to ten steps, bind and tie together four, six or eight stalks; then fill up the squares, taking six rows through the field; after I have got through the field, in a day or two, finish the row of shocks, by bringing the remaining six rows and making all snug and secure. This plan is necessary, if the corn is not well ripened. If the fodder is pretty well matured, you may finish the shocks as you go. If my corn is very tall, say nine or ten feet high, I use small handladers, with four or five rounds, that the shock may be well secured, which is important. Oats should follow corn; and wheat, oats. The land to be ploughed immediately preceding seeding with wheat. The land should now be laid down in grass for two or three years. Clover is the best fertilizing grass crop, and if sown with orchard grass, which ripens about the same time with the clover, you have a fine crop for hay or grazing. I am under the impression that wire-grass may be killed by this process of cropping. Winter ploughing, and the sod turned, are essential to destruction of this grass.

Your obedient servant, &c.,

HENRY B. JONES.

The Care of the Eyes.

Until one begins to feel the effect of impaired vision, he can hardly estimate the value of eye-sight, and consequently, from ignorance or carelessness, he is apt to neglect a few simple precautions, by the observance of which his sight might be preserved. We are aware that the columns of a newspaper do not afford the space, nor is an editor qualified to treat scientifically of the injuries which accrue to the organs of vision; but certainly the knights of the sanctum ought to have some practical experience upon artificial light more of which they consume than falls to the lot of other men.

Let us then give our readers a few hints upon the preservation of sight, which we deduce from our own experience, and if we are incorrect, our medical friends, and particularly opticians, are welcome to our columns to correct our errors. We are not about to interfere with those who resorted to spectacles, for the optician alone can benefit them; but there are multitudes, who, perhaps, ought to wear spectacles, but will not either from their inconvenience or from an idea that thereby they confess that time has taken too strong hold upon them. Such ask, whether they can see better than they now do without the use of glasses? To the most of these we answer, yes—provided you follow these simple directions. First, never use a writing desk or table with your face towards a window. In such case the rays of light come directly upon the pupil of the eyes, and causing an unnatural and forced contraction thereof, soon permanently injures the sight. Next—when your table or desk is near a window, sit so that your face turns from not towards the window, while you are writing. If your face is towards the window, the oblique rays strike your eye, injure it nearly as much as the direct rays when you sit in front of the window. It is best always to sit or stand while reading or writing with the window behind you; and next to that with the light coming over your left side—then the light illuminates the paper or book and does not shine abruptly upon the eye-ball.

The same remarks are applicable to artificial light. We are often asked what is the best light; gas, candle, oil or camphene. Our answer is it is immaterial which, provided the light of either be strong enough and do not flicker. A gas fish tail burner should never be used for reading or writing, because there is a constant oscillation or flickering of the flame. Candles, unless they have self-consuming wick which do not require snuffing, should not be used. We need scarcely say that oil wick which crust over and thus diminish the light are good for nothing; and the same is true of compounds of the nature of camphene, unless the wicks are properly trimmed of all other gummy deposit after standing twenty-four hours.

But whatever the artificial light used, let it strike the paper or book which you are using whenever you can, from over the left shoulder. This can always be done with gas, for that light is strong enough, and so is the light from camphene, oil, &c., provided it comes through a circular burner like the argand. But the light, whatever it be, should always be protected from

the air in the room by a glass chimney, so that the light may be steady.—*Boston Herald.*

LIST OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED.

NAMES	POST OFFICES.	AMT.
Rev L McDonald, Lewisville,	S C, \$1.	
Capt J Smith,	" 1.	
Jno J Shaw, Bishopville.	" 1.	
Dr. C D Bobo, Unionville, (vol 4)	" 1.	
R Stewart, Newberry c. h.,	" 1.	
Jas O Stewart, Newberry c. h.,	" 1.	
Dr Wm K Sims, Unionville,	" 2.	
H L Lawminn, Lewisville,	" 1.	
P Gourdin, Charleston,	" 1.	
O P Earle, Earlesville,	" 1.	
L D Bone, Georgetown,	" 1.	
M A M Leggo, Ridgeway,	" 1.	
W A Chapman, Salubrity, (vol 3)	" 1.	
Alex. McColester, Mountain View,	" 1.	
Wm L Campbell, " "	" 2.	
W L Calhoun, Calhouns Mills, (vol 3)	" 1.	
Sain'l Preoleau, Beaufort,	" 3.	
Hon G Cannon, Fingerville, (vol 4 & 5)	" 2.	
W Van Wyck, Pendleton,	" 4.	
H C Wannamaker, Jamison,	" 1.	
C H Durant, Lynchburg,	" 1.	
N Stuekey, (P O not given,)	" 1.	
Richard Woods, Chalkville, (vol 5)	" 1.	
Dr P G Snowden, Vances Ferry, (to Jan., 1857,)	" 3.	
Chas Snowden, " (to Jan., 1857)	" 3.	
J H Dingle, Sumterville, (vol 5)	" 1.	
A J Joyce, Cripple Creek, (vol 5 & 6)	" 2.	
Dr. L H Deas, Caundein,	" 2.	
Dr. S A Perritt, Sterling Grove,	" 2.	
Dr J P Barratt, New Market,	" 1.	
Dr B Kilgor, Mountain Shoals, (vol 5)	" 1.	
Dr P P Palmer, Pineville, (vol 6 and 7)	" 2.	
Jas S Lawton, Lawtonville,	" 1.	
Thos Willingham, "	" 1.	
Geo M Rhodes	" 5.	
B J Joudon,	" 1.	
Rev W A Lawton,	" 1.	
R H Chovin, " (vol 5)	" 1.	
Maj J K Vance, Cokesbury, (vol 5)	" 1.	
T L Gourdin, Pineville, (vol 6 & 7)	" 2.	
Col R F W Alston, Georgetown (vol 3, 4 & 5,)	" 3.	
Jesse Bellflower, " (vols 5 & 6)	" 2.	
Thos Stacy, Greenwood,	" 1.	
E F Raworth, Newberry c. h.,	" 1.	
H H Manigault, Adam's Run,	" 1.	
J T Jones, Allens Bridge,	" 3.	
J H Willingham, Beech Branch,	" 1.	
L R Jennings, Sumterville,	" 1.	
R A Cates, Glenn Springs,	" 1.	
Dr. Sam'l Means, "	" 1.	
G A Smith,	" 1.	
Dr J Winsmith,	" 1.	
J W Montgomery,	" 1.	
W J T Glenn,	" 1.	
J K Means	" 13.	
A M Smith,	" 1.	
E H Smith,	" 1.	
J C Zimmerman,	" 1.	
Jeff. Hays,	" 1.	
B J Oeland,	" 1.	
J A Miller,	" 1.	
Robt P Eide, Richmond,	Ala, 1.	

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

Address of R. F. W. Alston,	121
Dog law, rust on cotton, and pork again	123
Cements, roofing, &c.	124
Agriculture	124
Cows' sore Teats,	125
Salt in feeding Cattle,	125
Borax washing Recipe,	126
Cost of Fencing,	126
Vegetables and their Cookery,	127
Corn, Beans and Oregon Peas,	128
A good Soap Recipe,	128
Doctoring Cattle and Horses,	128
What is Practical Farming,	129
What does it cost to Fence,	129
A good price for a Horse,	129
A Melange for the Farmer and Planter,	130
Write for your Paper,	133
A great Humbug—Mr. Iversons' Rescue	
Grass,	134
Rust on Cotton and Remedy,	134
" Broomsedge"—Complimentary,	135
How to judge a Horse,	135
Caula Rapa,	135
Grape disease,	136
Croskill's Norwegian Harrow,	136
Useful Receipts,	136
Black List,	137
Contributions to our Paper,	137
Land for Sale,	137
Fire,	137
The Agricultural Convention,	137
Improved Stock,	138
The Crops and Seasons,	138
" The Little Giant,"	138
To the Rescue Again,	138
The Cultivation of Sandy Land,	139
State Agricultural Society,	139
Agricultural Society,	139
Less land and deeper Plowing,	140
Morgan Horses,	141
Address of James L. Orr,	141
Corn Culture in Virginia,	143
Care of the Eyes,	143

A CARD.

J. B. SITTON takes this method of returning his sincere thanks to his friends, neighbors and all others that were so kind in assisting at the fire on Saturday night, the 19th inst.

Pendleton, S. C., May 21.

[6—1t.]

BURNT OUT.

MY Coach Shop and entire stock except a few carriages and buggies, which I now offer for sale at unusually low prices.

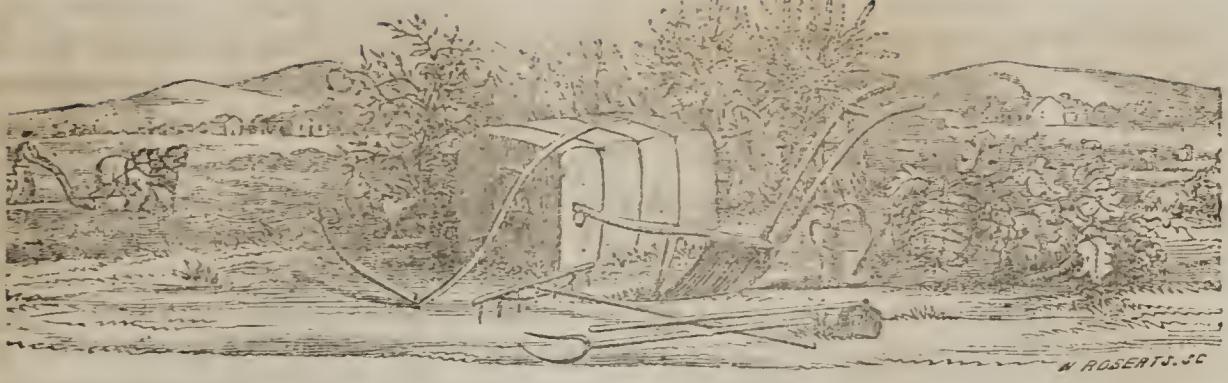
JOHN B. SITTON.

NOT BURNT.

MY Harness Shop is still under way. I have a good stock of Material and a large lot of Harness, put up in MULLIKIN's best style, that I will sell cheap. JOHN B. SITTON.

Pendleton, S. C. May,

[6—2t.]



W. ROBERTS, SC.

THE FARMER AND PLANTER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

Vol. VI.

PENDLETON, S. C., JULY, 1855.

No. VII.

The Farmer and Planter
Is issued monthly at Pendleton, S. C.,
BY GEORGE SEABORN,
Editor and Proprietor.
S. W. LEWIS, Publisher.

TERMS.

1 copy, one year (<i>invariably in advance</i>)	\$1 00.
6 copies one year	" 5 00.
25 copies one year	" 20 00.
100 copies one year	" 75 00.

All letters, except communications for the Farmer and Planter, must be postpaid to insure attention.

Advertisements will be inserted at the rates of seventy-five cents a square, (twelve lines or less,) for the first insertion, and fifty cents for each subsequent one.

Liberal deductions will be made to liberal advertisers.

The postage on the Farmer and Planter is anywhere in the State, three-fourths of a cent, and out of the State one cent and a half per quarter.

SLOAN & SEABORN, Fair Play, S. C., are authorized agents for the Farmer and Planter.

The Rev. THOMAS DAWSON, of Beaufort District, S. C., is an authorized agent for the Farmer and Planter.

T. H. LEWIS, Mobile, Alabama, is an authorized agent for the Farmer and Planter.

The Rev. H. T. LEWIS, of Mississippi City, Miss., is an authorized agent for the Farmer and Planter.

MR. WM. B. OWINGS, of Columbus, Miss., is authorized to act as agent for the Farmer and Planter.

MR. SAMUEL TAYLOR, Marshall, Texas, is authorized to act as agent for the Farmer and Planter.

MR. R. M. STOKES, Laurensville, S. C., is authorized to act as agent for the Farmer and Planter.

Hon. JOEL R. BERRY, of Nelman, Miss., will act as agent for the Farmer and Planter.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Visit to Col. Williams.

DEAR EDITOR AND READERS:—We are just home from a short trip into the edge of Laurens, to see what our neighbors over the way were striking at. We jotted down a few of our notions, and as we have in our constitution some inklings of "pro bono publico," (which means public good,) By the way of introducing these good things before you and the readers, in our own way, we will tell you what we saw, and what we think of the things seen.

We paid a visit to our worthy friend, Colonel John D. Williams, by whom we were hospitably received and kindly shown everything about the homestead and farm, stock, &c. We learned something by the survey of the various buildings that form an interesting and well arranged group. Such as stables, cow-houses, cattle-shelters, and all the appurtenances of a farmer's home. A well cultivated kitchen-garden on a scale that suited our notions of plentiful culinary supply, spread out its ample area on one side of the house. Around this we noticed the cuttings of the Osage Orange were thickly planted, and we were much surprised and delighted to see a majority of them showing life. This experiment, if successful, will be "glory enough" for any one man, and small as it may appear to the non-calculating mind, the success of this experiment may have vast modifying influences on the future of our country. The forest is fast melting away, and a good fire may ere long be thought a luxury even in this not far back forest-land, and the want of timber for fences must be more and more felt, or our present system of fencing out must be aban-

doned. We saw little of the field operations of the Colonol's farm, but fairly conclude there was harmony extended to all the business of the plantation and farms.

We will next introduce the reader to an experiment now being carried ont by Col. Williams, in the way of Goats. Yes, reader, Goats! This, like all other innovations on the practices of our *daddies*, is looked upon with the slant-eye of skepticism, by the non-progressive stand-still masses. But we say to such, what improvement of the inventive genius of man but has been met in the same way, and better wait a bit before you pass judgment. The Colonel is one of the utilitarian, go-ahead, Saxon race, with that sort of oaken will that resists impressions from the sneers and remarks of the outsiders; thus constituted by nature, he is fitted to brave all petty annoyances that often check progress in minds differently constituted. Now, reader, do you know that the drapery that covers the well formed bust of that lovely woman, was but yesterday the natural dress of a Goat. Yes, the peelage of a despised Goat, worked into that splendid shawl, that cost its beautiful wearer upwards of a thousand dollars!

It is to produce this wool, and constitute it a staple of our country, that Colonel Williams is now directing his care, and spending his time and some money; and we think should he be spared with health and strength, success will crown his efforts, and his name will be remembered as a benefactor of his fellow-man.

It is with pleasure we look upon all these onward movements, and from our observation, we are satisfied the experiment will fully meet the end for which it is now being carried on. We will now inform you, Mr. Editor and readers, of the present condition of the experiment. The Colonel has about fifty females of the common Goat, with several females resulting from the cross with the full blooded male Cashmere Goat. These are now bringing kids of three-fourth Cashmere blood. One of these kids we examined closely, it was about four weeks old; wool was fine, thick, and about one inch and a quarter in length; the general appearance approached closely the Cashmere in every particular; the ears longer, broader, and flopped down, as we call it, similarly to the Cashmere. Farther, this kid had receded from the common Goat, its grandmother, and in every way resembled the Cashmere type. This is the main point in the experiment. The entire disappearance of the common Goat, and the perma-

gent establishment of the Cashmere. The in and in plan is of necessity, from the fact of the experimenter having but one male of the full Cashmere. Had the Colonel other males, we should feel well satisfied of the result; but with all this we are sanguine of success. If Dr. Bachman is right where he claims a common origin for the Cashmere and the common Goat, that "one is but a variety of the other" by the intervention of man and other external agencies, the thing is entirely possible and even more than probable. If these Goats are but varieties, and not specifically different, there certainly appears to us no difficulty in the matter. Should they be specifically different, we know too little yet of the economy of animal life, to pronounce with any certainty. Observation and patient experiment is the only certain test of these things, and this praiseworthy work is what our friend is at, and we heartily wish him success. What we are pleased to call domestic animals are much talked about, but very little understood. All is in the deep obscure of the remote past as to their origin. We know that animal and plant have been vastly modified as regards size and color; but this we think sums up man's influences over nature's works. In this Goat experiment, there is one prominent promise of success under the laws of nature, which is, that the weak are always lost under the influences of the strong. The Cashmere Goat, is physically a much stronger animal than the common Goat, and we may expect this law to operate as well in this as in all other of animal being. This law we think will aid the Colonel in his experiment.

We next took a look at the Col's improved cattle of the Durham breed. We need say but little about them, as most of your readers are acquainted with them better than we are; to our judgment they are fine, and the difference so perceptible that we felt ashamed of our own scrub-stock. The Colonel with a liberality that was unmerited and unexpected on our part, presented us with a fine bull calf, for which we would thus express our thanks. It awakened in us a new feeling about this kind of stock, which is everywhere neglected over the broad area of the cotton-planting States. To do better, is "better late than never," and we shall make a beginning at improvement. The much neglected docile cow is one of the greatest blessings bestowed on poor, ungrateful man, and in the neglect of caring for them, we evince to the Donor a want of thankfulness for his gifts.

We saw a part of the Colonel's flock of sheep; mostly we believe of the French Merino variety. They were in fine order, particularly for the cold dry season we are yet passing through. Their wool has just been taken off; one fleece from a year old buck, weighed eleven pounds; one from a ewe with her first lamb, weighed eight pounds. The Colonel told us one of his ewes yielded a fleece of ten and a half pounds. Say, readers, if too great a plea for these innocent and important animals is asked in a dog-law? We think not. We saw also a couple of Suffolk hogs. We can't say much about them. They were pretty, and we think will do finely for a pet operation; but of this we know nothing; we can't condemn anything without a good reason. We dislike all protests that can be backed by no stronger reason than that very ready and unmeaning, "it won't do because it won't do." So we shall pass over the Suffolks, and leave them to work their way on their own merits.

From what we have seen of Laurens District, we are disposed to think that her farmers are beginning to feel the necessity of a reform in their business. We think some influence is at work, that will tell of better things. A few such men as the Williams', Davis', &c., will leave the "footprints" of their doings as foci of improvement. Abbeville must arouse to the work if she would save herself from a laggard position. Laurens has an Agricultural Society, of what strength we know not; but from the report of some of their committees, they are awake to their duty, and the wants of the farmers as to the system of education suitable for their sons. There is one thing certain, before a man can do anything well, he must know how to do it. Knowledge is not born with us; it must result from immediate application of the powers of the mind, or be communicated to us by oral or written signs of ideas. Isolated efforts like that of our friend, will do much. He is rendering a great public service, and deserves the notice of his fellow-countrymen.

Wisely and patiently conducted experiments are the surest to remove prejudice and test the value of every earthly interest. Our people as yet appear to be averse to any co-operative efforts for the improvement of agriculture and its adjuncts, and individual effort is left to struggle for the elevation of the major pursuits of life. The few men who are engaged in these experiments, are often made the butt of the thoughtless, and their motives ascribed to the love of

money, or a display of a low and paltry vanity. Excuse the length of this article as we think it of some importance. **ABBEVILLE.**

Chinquepin Ridge, May 12, 1855.

Often inspect your stock and keep a sharp look out for disease and accidents.

For the Farmer and Planter Sweet Potatoes, Pork, &c.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been thinking for some time of writing you a short communication, but I have been deterred from the fact of my inability to write an article sufficiently well for the public eye. I hoped some one of your more gifted correspondents would take up the subject, and save me the trouble. It is one which the farmer would do well to consider upon while he is raising cotton to buy his corn and pork with—especially in these hard times and high prices of provisions. I consider it our duty as brother farmers to assist each other as much as lieth in our power. With this object in view I will attempt to give my experience in raising potatoes and pork. The time has not arrived that the attention has been given to the sweet potato which it so richly merits. In former days its worth was not known as it is now; and we do not know the full worth, or we would give it more of our time and attention. The old-fashioned hill-system as our fathers used to plant under, showed how little they knew of its culture. When I used to see their little patches planted in this way, it always reminded me more of corn-dodgers placed to bake, than a place to retain moisture for a succulent root. Next came the ridge practice, with the work done with the hoe, which costs too much—too much hand labor for cheapness. My plan is this as near as I can give it: First, I break up my ground in the month of February, by trench plowing. (i.e.) I put the first furrow with a bull-tongue plow, and I follow in the same furrow with one of Broyles' subsoil plows, breaking it 8 or 10 inches deep. I wait then till the last of March or first of April, at which time I prefer to plant. I then lay off my rows 5 or 6 feet apart,* with a broad shovel plow. I fill the furrow with stable manure or ashes, (leached or unleached,) which are the best manure I know of. Never use manure from the cow lot, as it creates too much growth of vine and no root; neither is manure from the hog lot good. Next I bed the ground with a shovel, taking care not to throw the two first furrows (which cover the

*4 is wide enough.—ED.

manure) quite together, as that forms a small furrow exactly in the right place, in which the potato seed is dropped. The potato should not touch the manure. I cut my seed; but some argue that the whole seed will produce double that of the cut seed, but its all stuff; I have tried both, and if there is any difference it is in favor of the cut seed. I drop my seed about 15 or 18 inches apart, and cover them with a turning plow; we call the Pardee twister and finish the bed with it. By the way, I should like to say a word about this plow. It is a valuable invention for the plantation. It is cheap and good. It bears the name of the inventor. When the potato comes up, I give it a little scraping with a hoe on the top of the bed, I then work them almost entirely with the plow, for in this consists the cheap raising. I use the buzzard or sweep plow for all except the last working, when I put in a long bull-tongue to loosen the bed for the root to grow in, and a twister to make the bed over again. This finishes the work, and I rarely put a hoe in the field. I have made (without the least intention of boasting, as it is not as much as can be made under more favorable circumstances,) about 400 bushels from one acre of land tended in the above manner. I did not think of saying anything about harvesting; but as my plan is different from most people, I may give it to you at some future time,* lest I weary your patience or that of your many readers by this most unworthy article. I would like to say a little more in respect to the potato as food for hogs, and its worth in raising and fattening pork, as this is my principal object in raising potatoes, (beyond family consumption.) Just here I would say there is nothing more wholesome or cheap for food, and yet the farmers plant small patches, gather them and lock them up, and rarely give their negroes any, just as though they were too good for them to eat. I consider nothing more valuable for fattening pork than this, and I think it is cheap. Let us make a little calculation. Say we take two acres of land in every way equal, you plant corn and I potatoes, both for raising pork. You will raise, say 30 bushels of corn, worth 30 cents per bushel at the time you feed it; and I will raise 300 bushels of potatoes, worth 25 cents per bushel for feeding, but I will put them down at 10 cents per bushel. Now the cost of raising and gathering your corn will cost as much or more than my potatoes, as I do not have to dig my crop; I turn my grunters in

and they are glad to dig for themselves. Now how do we stand, 30 bushels of corn at 50 cents is \$15, and 300 hundred bushels of potatoes at 10 cents is \$30. But here is a greater difference, I put yours at full rate, and mine at the lowest. Now I will easily raise 400 bushels of potatoes under disadvantageous circumstances, which are worth at least 25 cents for feeding; 2 bushels are worth one of corn. That leaves us with corn worth \$15.00, and 400 bushels of potatoes worth 25 cents, is \$100. And one thing more. Pork fattened with potatoes is worth more than corn-fed pork.* It is better meat.

Allow me while writing this, to express my opinion of the Agricultural Convention you propose. I go heart and hand with you if it is to be composed of farmers. Why is it our Agricultural Societies in sending delegates to such Conventions, always select lawyers and doctors to represent them if there be any in the Society.† Now we have had lawyer and doctor Conventions enough, and do you not think this is the reason there is nothing better done at these Conventions. If you want anything done for agriculture, send plain, practical farmers, who know what to do, and will do it if they are not disturbed by the man of phrases. I admit they can make good speeches, and talk right nice, but everybody knows it's all theory with them, and no practice; therefore their advice is not taken.

Yours, &c., ARATOR.

*We would prefer them mixed.—ED.

†Arator forgets that some of our best farmers and planters are lawyers and doctors.

Galls on Horses.—“To cure galls on horses, take whiskey, and add as much pulverized alum as it will dissolve; with this bathe the parts affected. I have known the very worst of galls healed in this way, and the horse kept in constant use. I ever resort to this remedy, carrying it with me wherever I journey, and continue its use with undiminished approval. I apply no other remedy. When a horse has been put out for the winter, and has not been used, his breast and back get very tender; a single hour's use, then, on a hot day, will scald his breast so as to cause serious injury. My uniform practice, therefore, has been, for a week or so before beginning to use the harness, to harden the breast and back by bathing them regularly two or three times a day. No injury has then resulted from the application of the collar.”

Guinea Fowls and Rats—A correspondent of the Prairie Farmer, who was much annoyed by rats tried shooting, poisoning, and everything he could think of, but they defied the whole category. He then procured several Guinea fowls, and, for over two years past, has neither seen nor heard a rat about his premises.

*We shall be pleased to have it.—ED.

From the Southern Planter.

Fencing, &c.

MR. EDITOR:—Your correspondent “M. C.” in the January number of the Planter, makes some very interesting remarks on the subject of fencing, which he hopes may tend to lessen the “onerous” tax upon the farmers of Virginia, for says he, “No man looks forward with any hope to any modification in the law of enclosures,” and proceeds to show the great necessity of looking out for some cheaper plan of fencing than the present mode; we may derive much information from his observations and plans—they are good. But I must beg leave to differ with him in reference to a “hope,” at least in the modification of the fence law, and in the same number of the Planter he may see that the “Farmer’s Club of Nottoway county,” not only entertain a hope, but under a consciousness of the justice of their cause are now petitioning the Legislature of Virginia for some change or modification in the law, and it is my deliberate opinion, and has been for years, that it is only necessary to persevere and agitate the subject until ample light is afforded, and the end desired will be accomplished. It is one of those subjects involving principles that will bear investigation. But very many of the farmers consider a fence as indispensable as plowing their land, and hence never calculate how enormous the tax of fencing is, and upon whom the heaviest burdens falls, hence never think of relief, and the burden is daily increasing, which I think I can show. At no distant day we shall not hear with indifference the loud and just complaints of the farmers in lower Eastern Virginia, but a large majority of all classes east of the Blue Ridge will see the justice of uniting with their suffering brother farmers of the lower country, praying the Legislature to modify or repeal the fence law; and when it is felt and seen that the general interest and justice both demand it, we have only to ask it and it will be done. Let me present, for the consideration of your readers, a few plain facts: Look at the vast improvements now going on to our section of country, the immense demand for lumber in your cities, towns, and villages, and for plank roads and railroads, canals and bridges, and for farm buildings. The use of guano, plaster, lime, &c., bringing into cultivation many poor sections of land from which we have received large supplies of lumber, the rapid increase of our crops of wheat, already very large, constantly making drafts upon the best oak of all kinds, and chestnut for barrel timber, and a great amount of undergrowth destroyed by getting timber to steam saw mills in operation, cutting from two to five thousand feet of lumber per day, an aggregate of not less than sixty thousand feet per day within that space, and they are being scattered in all the country east of the Blue Ridge, and many carried beyond it. Poor timber lands have increased in value within four years from one to three hundred percent; and such is the facility of transportation, that firewood is an article of trade—and is in demand—and every tree that will make one hundred fence rails is worth from fifty cents to

one dollar each. Now, are not these startling facts? Many inquiries are now made by the thinking part of the community, what shall we do soon for building and rail timber and firewood? I now propose to show that the heaviest proportion of the great expense of fencing falls on the poor man, or man in common circumstances, owning a small farm—and as timber rises in value it will become more burdensome.

Fencing ten acres under the present system, ten rails to the panel, making 3,680 rails, hauling and putting up, worth \$1 per hundred,	\$36 80
37 trees to make them, worth 50 cents each,	18 50
Interest on this sum, 9 years the last of a fence,	29 86

	\$85 16
Annual Tax of 10 acres, to say nothing of repairs, &c.	\$9 46
Interest on this amount 9 years,	90 72

	\$158 72

Annual Tax of 100 acres, saying nothing of repairs, &c., \$28 63

This is a fair calculation under the present system, showing most clearly that the man with a little farm of ten acres pays a tax of about one third as much as the man with one hundred acres. The former making perhaps twenty or thirty barrels of corn, and the latter making two or three hundred, perhaps four hundred barrels—clearing land and cultivation cost the same per acre. Now, whose corn costs the most to make it? I think I have proved that a great disproportion of the enormous tax of fencing is upon the poor man, and when the time come, come it must, when with our friend “M. C.” we have to resort to rock ditching, wire and Osage Orange hedges, will it not bear still harder upon the poor man? Why will we not take the advice of Solomon. “The prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself,” and learn to live under a modification of the fence law before a worse thing comes upon us. Once more let me try to make the matter more plain for those who may not understand it. Let us suppose a case: suppose the Legislature of Virginia was to repeal the fence law, and agree to allow every farmer so much per head for keeping his cattle in an enclosure, say one dollar each, and to raise the money for this purpose, was to levy a tax upon every farmer exactly as they tax themselves in fencing.

Here is the statement: The 10 acre farmer is taxed annually as \$9 46 above,

Allowance made him for keeping say 3 head of cattle at \$1 each,	3 46
A clear loss of this sum,	<u>\$6 00</u>
The 100 acre farmer is taxed annually, \$28 63	
Allowance made him for keeping 30 head of cattle—if the other keeps 3 he ought to keep 30, at \$1 each,	<u>30 00</u>

A clear gain of this sum,	\$1 37
---------------------------	--------

I will now suggest a plan which in my opinion, will in effect, in a considerable degree, act as a modification of the fence law: Let every farmer keep good gates, instead of draw-bars and gaps, and keep his stock in proper bounds in winter, as well as summer, thereby preventing their stock from learning their powers and contracting mischievous habits; and at the same time pray the Legislature of Virginia to enact a law to prevent those very unruly and ungovernable animals, bulls and boars from running at large. They soon learn their strength, and seldom turn to the right or the left for any fence, prostrating the fences as they go at any season of the year, letting in other stock to their ruin and an immense destruction of crops, sometimes eating up the "ten acre field" in one night, and such events often cause strife and discord among neighbors—and such animals are dangerous in many instances, and at any rate are very alarming both in the country and in villages, and roaming as they do, farmers cannot expect to improve their stock, nor can they have their calves and pigs at a proper time, which often renders them as valueless.

Yours, respectfully.

W. TIMBERLAKE.

From the New York Evening Post.

Dioscorea Japonica, a Japanese Vegetable Growing in New York.

Yesterday afternoon we visited the nursery of Mr. D. Boll, at the corner of Fifth street and Broadway. He occupies an acre and a half of ground, upon which are erected a number of hot-houses. At the present time he has quite a variety of plants in bloom, among which are the camelia japonica. On account of the very backward spring, he has only just begun to prepare his garden for the summer season.

The great curiosity of his nursery however, is the *Dioscorea Japonica*, a vegetable with tuberous roots, which he received from Paris. He informs us that he saw this vegetable growing in France last summer. He was of opinion that it could be cultivated in this country, and directed a quantity of the roots to be sent to him to New York. About four weeks ago he planted fifteen or eighteen in pots in his hot-house, and they have already grown to the height of six inches. The stem has an ordinary looking leaf upon it.

As soon as the plant is large enough Mr.

Boll intends to transplant it to the garden, where it will grow in the open air. From present appearances, the *Dioscorea* looks as if it would thrive and mature by next fall. In the event of success, the roots will be disposed of for cultivation throughout the country. Applications have recently been made to the nurseryman for roots, but he has decided not to part with any until he is satisfied that they can be raised.

Mr. Boll says of the *Dioscorea Japonica* and its cultivation:

"The introduction of this excellent vegetable into France and the United States, and its cultivation as far as known, is worthy the attention of all. The *Dioscorea* is destined, by its delicious taste and great productiveness, to replace, in a great measure, the potato."

"It is a native of Japan, and is cultivated there and in the north of China in great quantities, and is feasted upon by rich and poor the year round. This remarkable vegetable was introduced into France in the year 1849, by M. Mauteprey, then French Consul in China. It was given him by a missionary.

"M. Mauteprey sent it to the *Jardin des Plantes*, where it remained unnoticed (as it did not flower) until his return to France in 1853, when he was perfectly astonished to find so invaluable an article still uncultivated, and not in all the markets of France.

"A friend of mine, M. Palliet, being acquainted with M. Mauteprey, and hearing him describe its great merit, set to work in good earnest, and propagated between 50,000 and 60,000 the first year, and is now preparing to cultivate it in all the departments of France.

"Some of the roots were sent last June to the great Horticultural Exhibition in Paris, and gained for M. Palliet the award for the introduction of the most useful plant, besides which the *Ministre de Agriculture* presented him with three thousand francs. Some of the roots weighing two pounds and a half a piece, were presented to the Emperor and Court, and pronounced excellent. Mr. Palliet afterwards received an order for forty thousand to be distributed throughout France.

"The cultivation of the *Dioscorea* is very simple, not requiring so much labor as the potato. It will do well in any soil, but light or sandy is preferred, as they will be more mealy than when raised in heavy bottomed lands. The roots are cut two inches long and planted ten or twelve inches apart, in rows, and kept clean of weeds until ready to dig, which will be in October and November.

"If left in the ground two years it will go on increasing and improving in quality. If kept dry they will keep eight and ten months out of the ground, which will be a great advantage, especially for shipping purposes. It is estimated that *Dioscorea* will exceed any other produce. It may be remarked here that the inner part is a fine white, very mealy—very agreeable to the taste, resembling arrow-root—and is cooked in ten minutes.

"Its growth and outward appearance resemble sweet potato, and there is no doubt it will be cultivated more extensively than that excellent vegetable, as it possesses the advantage of being hardy, and of being kept a much longer time."

Milking Cows.

To insure the greatest yield of milk from a cow, she should not only be well fed and well tended, but also well milked. Now, it is not every man or maid, who can squeeze fluid from a cow's udder, that is a good milker.

It is important, in the first place, that the cow's bag should be clean. For this purpose, when the animals are stabled—as they are or should be, during the winter, on all farms, and throughout the year by many—let the whole udder be washed with clean cold water and immediately thoroughly dried with a towel. The advantages of this practice to the health of the animal and the healthfulness of the milk are great and manifest; and in this way, too, we escape that black sediment of which milk buyers so constantly complain, and which is nothing else than small particles of manure brushed from the bag and belly of the cow into the milk-pail. The hands of the milkman by this process become washed clean, of necessity—an operation too generally omitted even by those who consider themselves neat and careful. The same process obviates, too, the supposed necessity of moistening the teats by milking a fine stream into the hand and washing the teats therewith—a filthy practice followed by almost all men and too many women.

The udder being now cooled and cleaned, we are ready to begin milking. If the cow be well trained, she will now extend backward her hind leg for your convenience, without a word from you, or by a simple jogging of the leg accompanied with the command "hoist." They understand what is required of them, and need only, at times, a gentle reminder. But it is a singular fact that men who are kind in every other relation of life—as husband, father, neighbor and master—are rough in their treatment of

"gentle Bossy." If they say "hoist," it is in steutorian tones; and too generally the first intimation of their wishes is conveyed in a "striking" manner by the edge of a heavy milking stool. Now a considerable experience among "the milky mothers of the herd" has convinced us that harshness of tone or petty cruelty is not only unproductive of good results, but is extremely disadvantageous. Many cows, that hold up their milk to a cross milker, will give down freely to one more gentle. And the sack of grain or other weight across the loins, which is still used to compel the animal to give down, would have been uncalled for if a kind hand had always drawn her milk; or could soon be dispensed with, if gentleness takes hold of the teats.

Now the cow may kick. Well we have in previous numbers of the *Journal of Agriculture* shown that to return kick for kick is a poor method of converting Moody from the error of her ways, but that she may be completely conquered and cured by kindness.

When fairly seated, it is of the first consequence that the milking should be done without violence and as rapidly as possible. Many persons who pride themselves on their fast milking, jerk the teats violently, and others will cause them to become sore by the pressure of their finger nails. The best milkers scarcely move their elbows, but with the upper portion of the hand grasping and compressing the teats, force the jet of milk by the pressure of the lower finger.

Whether a cow should be milked before, after, or during feeding is a question of minor importance, and must be decided by circumstances. R. L. Allen, in his excellent work on "Domestic Animals" recommends, (if we rightly remember) that they be milked while feeding, for they readily let down their milk; but many cows, at other times quiet, will be a little uneasy while eating, and anxious to get not only all that belongs to them, but a share of their neighbor's meal also. For this reason we always milk before feeding, that the feed might appear like a reward of merit. Where one has but one or two cows it is of course a matter of little moment.

In fine, we recommend to those who want much milk and good milk, KINDNESS and CLEANLINESS.—*Practical Farmer.*

The most Profitable Breed of Sheep.

There is much discussion upon the question as to the most profitable sheep. One party asserts that the true breed is the finest and purest Saxony; another is equally certain

that it's the hard gummy Merino; a third is opposed to all fine wooled sheep, and can only grow South Down; while still another can see no profit in any but long wooled and stately Cotswold or Leicester; while a great multitude are in favor of the Mongrels, obtained by a cross from a part, or all the kinds mentioned.

The object of raising sheep, as of any other kind of farming, is to make money, to turn the annual herbage into cash. The best breed of sheep for the farmer to adopt, will depend, in a great degree, upon his locality. Whether near, or at a distance, from a good market for live stock, as larger towns, or upon railroads leading thereto; whether in a grain growing or a grazing district; or in a warm or cold climate.

It is settled, that a fine staple of wool, cannot be grown upon a profitable carcass for the butcher. A large and early maturing sheep, like the South Down and Cotswold, cannot be made to produce a fine clothing wool. But the wool they do produce is valuable, and brings a remunerating price, especially the long wool of the Leicesters. The coarser and larger bodied sheep require a larger amount of pasture, and cannot be kept in large flocks. For the farmer who keeps but few, say from fifty to one hundred, we should recommend the coarse wooled sheep. Many a farmer who can keep his fifty or sixty head, could make his two dollars annually, clear, upon each, with very little trouble. It would require care, and that is what a great many farmers complain of though constantly grumbling about hard time. In a warm climate, and especially at the South, fine wooled Saxons should be preferred. The experience of years demonstrates that, in the growing of fine wool, the South need have no competitor, and we feel fully satisfied that it would now be the most profitable branch of their agricultural industry. There are flocks in that region, which produce wool, that cannot be surpassed by any in Germany. Among them, and perhaps the very first, is the flock of R. Cockrill, Esq., of Nashville, Tennessee. For evenness, firmness, and strength of staple, his flock has not yet been out-done, by the very highest bred German flocks. Though there is little encouragement for growing fine wool anywhere, yet we would advise our friends South, not to abandon it, but to keep steady along, for it will not be many years before they will have the fine wool market entirely to themselves; for the amount of strictly fine Saxon wool, grown this side of the Ohio river, will grow less and less every year. Some men who have superior flocks, like our friends, Red. of Dalton Ohio, and Ladd of Richmond, Ohio, and who are fond of, and understand breeding, will continue them, and make them profitable. But we fear, that unless there is some great change soon, the Saxon will not spread North and West.

The great belt of country lying north of the Alleghany mountains, and the Ohio river, and extending clear to the Rocky Mountains, seems admirably adapted for the Negretti and Insantada of the Merino families, as south of

that does for the Escuria and Electoral branch. The best representative of this branch, is found in what is now termed the *Vermont Merino*. They are a hardy race, with thick heavy fleeces, full of gum and yolk, and formed to withstand well, the rigors of our hard winters. Like neir-congerier, the Saxon, they delight in a dry soil, and will thrive upon pastures where large sheep would starve. In Vermont, objections are made to this breed of sheep, by wool dealers, because the wool is so heavy, by reason of its gum and yolk. It may not be so profitable for them, but it shows the great value of the breed, for cold and bleak regions. But, as this sheep travels west, it loses this objection, for in this State, and throughout the west, the wool retains its fineness, but loses much of its superfluous gum and oil, but none of its vigorous constitution. Crossed upon the common breeds of Ohio, Michigan, and the other Western States, it produces a valuable breed: giving a finer and heavier fleece, and a stronger and more healthy habit. The breed is not confined to Vermont, but may be found in great purity in this State, and Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Among the best now in our mind is the flock of our friend, Mr. Dickinson, of Victor, whose communication on the subject of his flock can be found in the last volume.

It is not necessary here to particularize the various mongrel breeds, which have grown out of these great leading families. We believe one great cause of controversy has arisen from not taking a true view of the great and natural division of our country, into northern and southern wool growing sections. Around large cities, and upon small farms, coarse wooled sheep will be found the most profitable; while in the milder climate of the south, the Saxon; and in the colder regions of the north, the Merino will be found the true breed.—*Urbana Citizen.*

Over-Cropping.

This is the leading vice of Agriculture in this portion of the Southern States. The small and neat farm that is the farm small enough in all its arrangements for the management of the force which cultivates it—is the "angel's visit" of Southern husbandry. One meets with but few such farmers, and meets them far apart. Instead of farms where everything appears in complete order and arrangement, one often meets with those widely-spread tumble-downs, where disorder and derangement are tumbled together in every variety of condition; and this arises principally from over-cropping. The maxim of agriculture, that the production of the earth must ever be in proportion to the tillage, seems generally to be neglected, or not known in this part of the State; for to frame a maxim from the system mostly pursued, the productions of the earth are in proportion to the quantity of surface to which the appearance of tillage can be given. In every department of agriculture our whole section of State is in a condition of comparative infancy. Can it be said that the production of any article is carried up to the capability of the soil and climate?

The farmer who throws into the shape of cultivation, a wide surface which he merely plows and hoes, while his mind is as free as vacancy from any thought about the nature of the soil, which he takes as nature gives it, and of the different circumstances of climate that may weary his labors and shorten his crops through the existance of some radical deficiency in the soil, or in the system of culture, may say he raises what he consumes, and sometimes what he sells; but he owes God more thanks for a good season than he owes to himself for the exercise of skill and judgement. To obtain as much as possible from the number of acres one man can cultivate, and to cultivate no more than may be made to yield the most profitable quantity it is capable of yielding, should be strictly regarded by every farmer as the worthiest object of his study and his labor; for the best course of preparation, the best adaptation of soil which the manœuvres of cultivation can oppose to the vicissitudes of climate, and the perfect quantity and best quality of that quantity per acre, must remain unknown and unenjoyed until we become content to cultivate less space, and to exert in the premises more practical science and experimental knowledge. A heavy crop from a high state of fertility and cultivation is always the only advantageous one. It shews the skill and industry properly applied of the farmer who produces. It shows the practicable extent of agricultural development. In short, it is an example creditable and profitable to him who exhibits it—worthy of imitation and rivalry, and highly beneficial to the agriculture of the State. No farmer complains of this kind of a heavy crop; it is a real benefit and source of much pleasure. But a crop which is a heavy crop because it occupies a greater number of acres than the cultivator can manage, under a system of culture thoroughly adapted, is commonly no better than the wilful cultivator of such deserves to have.—*Mobile Herald and Tribune.*

Agricultural Journals.

If we may be allowed to say so, without incurring the suspicion of undue self-esteem, we do not think this class of publications are sufficiently appreciated. They encounter at the very outset, the popular prejudice against *book-farming*. We cannot undertake now to discuss the unreasonableness as we esteem it, of this prejudice, though we expect to have something to say in its behalf before the year is closed; suffice it at present to remark, that it is certainly no valid objection to a good idea, that it is found in the pages of a book or the columns of a newspaper, and an agricultural journal should be merely a repository of good ideas on the subject of agriculture. If erroneous opinions find their way into its columns they certainly are in the very best place to meet exposure; if on the contrary, its teachings are correct, no better vehicle for communicating them

to the public, than the pages of a newspaper can be found. Unfounded as this prejudice is, however, it is a general one, and every agricultural journal must encounter it: some to outlive it, many to sink under it.

It is a misapprehension of the mission of such a paper to restrict its objects to instructions in the arts of husbandry. The cultivation of our staple crops, the rearing of stock, and the improvement of the soil, are subjects of prime importance, but they do not constitute the exclusive material for agricultural journalizing. The social and commercial relations of the planter, are no less important, nor less legitimate subjects of enquiry and discussion. The social status of the pursuits in the family of professions, and not the relations of its individual members, is what we mean by the first; and by the latter interest, it will be at once understood that we refer to all that affects the trade in those commodities which are produced by the planter. It is the aim of an agricultural journal to place the planting community where its importance demands it should stand, among the first, if not the foremost, in the catalogue of pursuits; and it should not be less its aim to advise its readers of all that concerns the commercial value of its products. We make crops for the money which they yield, and our profits are not more dependent upon the skill with which we cultivate the soil, than upon the judgment with which we dispose of our productions. To this end it is as important that we should be advised of the influence which govern our markets, as that we should be informed of the principles which control in the cultivation of our crops.

It is regarded important that various other public interests, should be represented by the press; why should it not be equally essential to the planting interests. The mercantile, the manufacturing, the professional vocations, all have their organs; have the agriculturists no common cause, no *esprit de corps*, which demands public expression? It should be the aim of the agricultural journals to cultivate among their readers that community of sentiment—that feeling of brotherhood among those engaged in the same pursuit, which is thought to be so essential to the prosperity of other vocations. If they discover no new principles in agriculture, if they add no new instructions in the art of husbandry, the presses devoted to the interests of agriculture, will have done a great deal in giving dignity and respectability to the calling. When our fields are made the subject of study as well as cultivation, when our coun-

try seats are made the home of intelligence, and beauty, and refinement, a new and powerful element of prosperity, will be added to the agricultural pursuits. Our population will then become permanent, and men of cultivated minds will seek in the rural arts, the most congenial walks of life.—*Soil of the South.*

For the Farmer and Planter.

The Rescue Grass and Curculio.

MR. EDITOR:—If you deem the following notice of the Rescue Grass and the Curculio worthy of an introduction in your columns, please give it an insertion:

A late number of the Farmer and Planter contained certain articles from two sources disparagingly to the famed Resene Grass. Indeed from time to time it has been pronounced a fraud upon the credulity of the public. Much was claimed for this Grass by its intelligent advocate, Mr. Iverson, and of course it had to pass a severe ordeal.

We contend too much was expected of it—too little time was given to test its valuable character, and therefore the judgment of the country was premature. We also contend it has not failed in the hands of some, and that it will justify all reasonable expectations and probably all the assertions of its introducer. My experience justifies us in saying it is the best Grass with which we are acquainted. It is now in successful culture on my plantation—is a beautiful Grass, the admiration of every one who has seen it. It is succulent, luxuriant, and doubtless of nutritious character; devoured by horses and all animals; makes a fine, soft and delicious hay, yielding, it is said, two to three tons to the acre. This is not the least of its advantages; affording hay at this season of the year when all our native grasses are just vegetating the seed, and when the fodder of the country is pretty well used up. Notwithstanding our very cold and dry winter, it steadily progressed, and is now beautiful. We did not pasture on it as our object was seed, but from its powerful hold on the land, it doubtless would justify the assertions of its pasture qualities. Portions of it have been cut, and in a few days it would entirely recover itself; thus, shewing its prolific powers and adaptedness to pasturage. From not being pastured it has shot out the ears, which are large, heavy and succulent heads of grain, and stands two feet and a half generally on the ground. Thus, much for its pasturage qualities. Its capacity to restore our worn out lands when treated as proposed by Mr. Iver-

son, cannot be questioned. He asserts it is the cheapest and most expeditious way to reclaim them. To do so, however, we must pursue his method faithfully, which is developed in his circular of directions, &c. An extensive introduction of this Grass into our farming operations, and a persevering cultivation of it after the method of its introducer, is destined, we believe, to work wonders for us in the matter of fat lambs, fat mutton, fat horses, and improved lands.

While the pen is in hand, I would first say, Mr. Editor, I have finally identified by a double process the individuality of that destructive little insect, the Peach Curculio. He resembles the corn weevil, but is one size larger—is provided with wings, and a long horny proboscis. The mode of arriving at this knowledge, was by taking the worm from the peach when eaten, and putting it into a bottle filled with damp, well pulverized earth, and securing the mouth with a bit of gauze to prevent his escape. In six weeks or two months he goes into the chrysalis stage of his existence, and emerges in due time the fully matured little insect above mentioned. The other mode of identifying him, was by spreading a sheet under the tree when our fruit was first forming and about the size of a pea, when he drops into the sheet if the tree is smartly struck with the hand. He is recognized as the same insect discovered by the other process before mentioned. A much more difficult matter remains to be discovered, viz: The mode of destroying him or preventing his ravages, which is by far the most prolific source of our loss of the fruit crop. He will be a benefactor of his race, who will discover a remedy. To aid in such discovery, I would say my belief is, the worm from the fruit when fallen, passes into the ground under the tree, and there remains dormant the rest of the season, and hibernates during the winter to appear the fully matured insect, emerging from the ground only to re-commence his round of propagation by depositing his egg on the tender fruit in early spring. If any of your readers, Mr. Editor, can suggest an efficient remedy for this destructive insect, he will do the suffering public a favor by communicating it through your useful journal.

Respectfully,
Pocataligo, April 15, 1855.

L. M. D.

Never half do anything, you may thus lose more in one day than a month can restore.

'Tis said—"a word to the wise is sufficient."

For the Farmer and Planter.

Cultivation of Cotton---Challenge Accepted.

MR. EDITOR:—I see that my last piece has again been attacked, this time by one “Sparrowgrass.” It is strange to me that your readers who criticise my pieces should always read them wrong. I think that an individual who takes it upon himself to answer and point out the errors in another’s writings, should be very careful not to misrepresent it. I have no objections to any ones’ pointing out to me when I am wrong, if they are first *certain* that I am wrong. I have not the No. that contains my piece on the culture of cotton, at hand, nor have I a copy of the original, but if I recollect, I was not telling what *good* land would bring to the acre if there was a good “stand” on it; but common land was what I referred to, and I think I said “common.” “Sparrowgrass” wishes me to plant one acre of my *best* land, three feet by ten inches, as a test. I will accept his challenge and plant on *common* land if he thinks I plant too thickly, or I will plant my *best* land the same way that I have always been planting, which is thicker in proportion to the land. I plant my *best* land five feet by three. Now, I think that is thicker for my *best* land than three feet by ten inches is for my common land. It is too late now to test the matter with “Sparrowgrass,” but I will do so the next year, and I also propose to him to try an acre of his *best* land his way of planting, and an acre of this common land, and I will do the same my way. This is what I mean. He to plant an acre of his *best* land three and a half feet by fifteen inches, and I will plant mine five feet by three. He to plant one acre of his common land, with or without manure, as he may choose and in any manner he may choose, and I will do the same, and note the yield of each acre. I want him to understand me fully. If we are to use manure, I will plant mine wider in the drill, but the rows the same width. When I wrote on the culture of cotton I spoke of what common land would make with a “stand” without manure. I call common land that which will make from three to five hundred lbs to the acre of seed cotton be the seasons good or bad. If I can find out from the Farmer and Planter through any of its correspondents, a better way to plant cotton than the way I do it, I will be paid tenfold for my subscription, and that is what I take the paper for, and I am perfectly willing that “Sparrowgrass” should teach me. I have had a conversation with “Piney Woods,” and he tells me that he has another piece prepared for the Farmer and Planter, which I hope

he will not delay in sending, and I hope he will not let that be the last. I want to see our paper filled up with original matter, and the subscribers giving to each other their experience in cultivating and *improving* their lands. If every subscriber who is competent would send one piece a year and one new subscriber, we would have (with the labor and experience of the Editor,) one of the best agricultural papers in the South. If I can do the paper any good by writing, I am perfectly willing to devote a part of my time to it. It is what we want; an agricultural paper independent of all other papers.

Novice.

Just so, friend “Novice,” and we have even at this time, with our comparatively small number of subscribers, competent writers enough to make up just such a paper if we can only persuade and encourage them by our good example to do their duty. We say their *duty*, for it is undoubtedly the duty of every subscriber to our paper to contribute his part according to his abilities, to the common fund of information which we are laboring to store up for both the present and future benefit of all. Let our friends, therefore not hide their lights under a bushel, but rather set them up as beacons for the guidance of their less informed brethren. Let us all teach one another.—ED. F. & P.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Education of the Farmer.

MR. EDITOR:—In your May No. I noticed a Report of a Committee “To the Agricultural Association of Laurens District,” upon the “Proper education of the Farmer.”

I have seen no report which defines the course to be pursued by farmers equal to that; although it is brief yet the earnestness with which the Committee express their convictions, indicates that they are *irrevocably convinced* of the necessity for the establishment of schools for the proper agricultural education of the farmer.

The exorbitant prices which the products of the soil command at the present time, naturally induce people to enquire more earnestly than ever, how can the soil be managed to produce increased crops? The question may be readily answered; educate the rising generation of farmers specially for their vocation; let them know clearly what they have to contend with and in what manner, then the soil will be cultivated judiciously, and the present yield greatly augmented. To accomplish this will require time, and the sooner the people know the wants on the subject the better.

The study of agriculture is singularly interesting as well as useful; a knowledge of the wonderful operations which even an insignifi-

cant plant performs by receiving some of its food from the air through the leaves, and resu-
sing some in the air, which will be received at
the roots after its passage through the soil, inci-
tes to further investigations of this science.

It has been a general impression that the cul-
tivation of the soil furnished exercise for the
body only, but the idea is totally erroneous;
there is no pursuit which presents so extensive
and so varied a field for the exercise of the
mind as farming. Why! the genuine farmer is
a lawyer of the first order, whose office extends
over his whole farm, and every shrub and plant
are his ready clients; every volume he studies
is stamped laws of nature, most of which are
easily comprehended; yet some (which do not
materially affect the farmer,) are more complicated
than Blackstone, and will require wise
and observing lawyers to expound them.

The genuine farmer is a regular *physician*,
whose principal patient is the soil—his medi-
cine—the various manures, organic, inorganic
and atmosphere; he must understand the con-
stitution of his patient, before he is capable of
prescribing, or he may cause more injury than
henebit. A large portion of the soil on the At-
lantic coast is unable to *work* much, owing to
the unskilful treatment which it receives.

I am fully convinced by observation and ex-
perience that the agricultural *lawyers* have been
few, and the agricultural *doctors* have been nu-
merous, but principally experimental practi-
tioners. Those who have tilled the soil for many
years may think this harsh language, but the
light has driven the darkness from my eyes suf-
ficiently to know that it is true.

Until farmers cease to "farm it blind," they
may expect to meet with a variety of difficulties,
which to them seem mysterious and un-
accountable; but light is coming to expel the
mist, and the report of that Committee noticed
before is a cheering omen.

When the *professed* farmer shall step out on
the farm in the capacity of workman or over-
seer, he will receive tenfold pleasure compared
with the man who farms in the dark, and he
will feel conscious that his profession is the
most honorable, (honor has great attractions,)
the most useful, the most healthy, and the most
independent of all professions.

S. DUDLEY.

Newark, New Jersey, June 4, 1855.

Corn and Potatoes Together.

The idea advanced by some, that potatoes
planted in rows alternating with corn, would
prevent the potato rot, induced many last year
to try the experiment. As the potato disease

did not prevail so extensively during the last
season as usual, the results of the experiment
in this respect are not so definitely ascertained
as we could wish.

It has also been believed, by some, that
this is a better mode of raising the two
crops than by planting them separately.

We have been reminded of this idea by
reading the address, delivered by Mr. Newhall,
before the Essex County Agricultural Society
at their last Cattle Show. We find that he
advances the same idea, and brings forward
some facts corroborating it. Premiums had
some years ago been offered by that Society,
for mixed corps of corn, beans, potatoes, &c.
Mr. Newhall says:

"But one premium had been claimed; which
was for a crop of corn and potatoes, planted
in alternate rows; the experiment made at
the time, by measurement of land and produce,
showed that the mixed crop yielded some
nineteen percent. more than that which was
planted separately, the corn and potatoes
planted in this way, were mutual helps to
each other; the potatoes shading the roots of
the corn, and protecting it from the effects of
drought, and the corn, in the months of July
and August, screening the potatoes from the
rays of the sun. The crops planted in this way,
adding the value of potatoes in corn, yielding
from eighty to one hundred bushels per
acre."

Mr. Newhall quotes a remark of Lorain, on
this subject, who, says that he "frequently
planted. Indian Corn in single rows, eight
feet asunder, and dropped single corn two feet
distant from each other in the rows, so as to
stand in single plants. When the corn was
ridged, potatoes were planted in the clearing
out furrows, which were filled with rotted dung,
and closed by two furrows backed over the
potatoes by the plow. I have had, repeatedly,
forty to fifty bushels of shelled corn, and one
hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes to the
acre. In weight the corn always exceeded the
best corn cultivated in the common way. The
mode was suggested to me by General Washington,
who told me that he had great success in
it."

It is probable also that another reason why
these two crops are better, (taking it for granted
that there is no fallacy in the above named
experiments) is this: The air can circulate
freely through them, and the sun also has its
genial effect, while the mutual shade which one
crop gives to the other, tempers its rays, and
prevents any excess of heat which would be in-
jurious; in other words, the temperature is
more uniform.

This experiment is so easily tried, that we
hope it will be more generally instituted next
summer, and its results noted.—*Maine Farmer*.

CURE FOR DIARRHŒA.—A certain cure for
this complaint is found in rice water. Boil the
rice, take the water, make it palatable with
salt, and drink it copiously while warm. We
never knew this to fail.

Extract from the Address of Horace Greeley.

(Continued from Page 141.)

What the Sister Arts teach as to Agriculture may be fairly summed up in this proposition:

The workman should be completely master of his materials and his implements. He should first thoroughly understand, in order that he may in the next place thoroughly control, the elements from which he is to evolve value and sustenance. He who should undertake to build a ship, in ignorance of the relative tenacity and resistance to pressure of the various woods and metals, would rush into a pursuit for which he had no capacity; so would he who should undertake the running of a steam-engine in ignorance of the nature and power of steam. Yet the man who attempts to farm with an imperfect knowledge of the nature and properties of soils in general, of the laws of Vegetation, the qualities and peculiarities of the particular soils whereof his farm is composed, and the cheapest means of renovating and increasing their fertility and productiveness, stands on the same platform with the ignorant shipwright or engineer, and braves like disasters, whereof the largest share will naturally fall to himself and his family. Agriculture is a pursuit so vast in its scope, so various in its processes and objects, that it is difficult to lay down a general rule with regard to it that will admit of no exceptions; yet I will venture to propound one, which is as follows: *The cultivator whose farm is not more valuable and more productive as one result of each year's tillage, does not understand his vocation, and ought to learn it or quit it.*

Perhaps there is no single field of observation wherein the extent and disastrous effects of ignorance among farmers are more strikingly exhibited than in that of Insect Life and Ravages. It has pleased the All-Wise to subject agriculture to the changes and perils of insect depredations, as well as to weeds, drouth, frost, inundation, and other evils. The end of all these is beneficence—the evolution and discipline of man's capacities through the necessary counteraction and combat. Plants and domestic animals rightfully look to their owner for efficient protection; and he who allows his sheep to be killed by wolves, his fowls to be carried off by foxes, or his grain to be devoured by insects, is culpably faithless to his dependents and his duty. Yet how listlessly, thoughtlessly, hopelessly, do we see farmers stand by while their crops are destroyed by worms, birds or weevils, without seeming to know that they have anything to do in the premises? No Turkish fa-

talism is blinder or blanker than theirs. It is hardly yet six weeks since I saw whole counties of my own State covered and devastated by grasshoppers, who stripped the dry uplands of every blade of grass, almost every green leaf, cutting the green oats from their stalks, the fruit from the trees, devouring corn in the ear, making the cleared land a desert, and pushing the cattle to the very verge of starvation. Yet there stood the farmers, gazing gloomily from day to day at the destruction of their cherished hopes of a harvest and the utter desolation of the whole country, yet not one asking of another, "What shall we do to arrest this sweeping ravage? How shall we most readily, cheaply and surely clear our lands of these vermin?" I do not pretend to know what the proper remedy was or is; but this I do know, that, had I been one of these farmers, I would have found a remedy or bankrupted myself in the search. I should have first interrogated the best authorities of agriculture and natural history, and, in case of finding no guidance there, I should have sowed one acre of my land bountifully with salt; the next with Plaster; the next perhaps with Nitre; a fourth with Potash: and so on, using in all cases substances that I knew would be paid for by future harvests, unless I had reason to believe something else would be more efficient. Thus, before one week had elapsed, I would have found some caustic that grasshoppers could not abide; and having found it, I would have applied it until the last cormorant among them had been driven into the woods or turned over on his back. And this is the spirit in which every such invasion should be met and overcome. Had the farmers of any township promptly met, when the ravage first became serious, and agreed that one of them would try one possible antidote and another, according as they happened respectively to have the material at command, and met again a few evenings later to compare notes on the results of their several experiments, they could not have failed to discover an efficient remedy within the first week. But they did nothing; and hence many of their farms are a desert, their fall crops next to nothing, and half their cattle must be sold or killed for want of food.

Our farmers generally think and work better out of their own vocation than in it. A distant and towering evil arouses their hostility and evokes their energy much more readily than one of a less imposing but more mischievous character which assails them in their homes. Let the word go forth, 'An army of invaders

have landed!" and tens of thousands snatch instinctively their muskets and take the road; but here are armies all around them who are plundering them worse than any invaders would, yet hardly attract their notice. The Hessians who were hired to subjugate our fathers had no rest for their feet until the last of them was killed, captured or hunted home, more than seventy years ago; yet their attendant parasite, the Hessian Fly, has been plundering us ever since without resistance, and is now as formidable and destructive as ever. I cannot believe flies more difficult to conquer than men, if we would but fairly set about it.

And here let me retrace my steps to illustrate a point in Industrial Economy which I have already incidentally touched, but have not illustrated as its importance deserves, and as the prevailing misconceptions render necessary. I refer to *The Proportion of Means to Ends*, which the Artisan must always bear in mind, but which the farmer seems too often to forget. No artificer presumes that the labor and materials required for a fine table will suffice for a piano-forte; nor that a steam-engine can be constructed as cheaply as a churn. But the farmer, seeing trees and plants grow around him with weed-like facility and tenacity, often indolently imagines that *any* tree will grow so, and plants his rare and delicate fruit-trees, if he plants such at all, as if they were oaks or locusts. But Nature is inexorable in her requirement that the labor and care essential to the production of a choice fruit or plant shall be proportionate to the value of the product. You may grow pine on yellow sand or hickory on blue clay; but if you want choice pears or peaches you must devote much labor and expense to preparing and enriching the ground wherein your trees are to be set. Too many farmers, not heeding this law, or supposing that Nature may somehow be circumvented, obtain worthless fruit or none at all, and so abandon the culture in disgust and despair.

There is not now one grape-vine or fruit-tree, except of the coarsest and commonest kinds, where there should be twenty, taking one State with another; and one consequence of this is an enormous and perilous consumption of flesh as food, to an extent unknown in other countries. We are nationally surfeited with pork and tainted with Scrofula, not because we are so fond of pork, but because, for an important portion of each year, the majority of our population can get little beside. "The foolishness of preaching" will never suffice to correct this aberration;

for men who work must eat, though their food be not the best; but give us an abundance of the choicest fruits and vegetables, with farmers who know how to grow them, and truly educated housewives, who delight in preparing and serving them, and we shall enjoy health, elasticity and longevity to an extent now unknown. A flesh diet is the dearest, the least palatable and the least wholesome, and all that is needed to wean men from it is the presentation of a better. To secure this, we need only farmers who will feel a just pride in having the finest orchards and gardens—who will surround, not merely their own dwellings, but those of their tenants and helpers also, with choice trees; and who will plant and keep planting until good fruit shall be so abundant that it can be no longer an object to steal it.

For the Farmer and Planter.

"Does Peas injure Corn when Planted Together?"

MR. EDITOR:—The above is the heading for one of your editorials (page 113,) in your May number, to which I beg a response.

If "a neighbor" be correct in his facts that the "corn and fodder" where no peas, "weighed more than did the corn, fodder and peas grew" where peas had been planted with the corn, it only settles the question as to that particular field, but does not settle the question unless under like circumstances. Let us understand your proposition. Do you mean to plant corn and peas together, on same day, or that both are grown on the same land and in the same year. (a) I mean not to quibble. I want a definition. Again, was the corn, and fodder, and the peas alone weighed, no vines, no haulm? (b)

I lay down this canon and defy any one or all men—the world and rest of mankind—to disprove: *No one annual plant by necessity injures the product of another if proper time be given between plantings*; (c) and I take peas and corn to illustrate. We, of the South, usually plant our peas when corn is about to tassel; they vegetate and remain some five inches high until fodder is pulled, when they grow and about September begin to bloom and bear—when dews get heavy and cold. This is after corn is made. When corn gets glazed—begins to harden—it is cut down in parts of Virginia and farther North. If corn has thus made, what harm can peas do to our corn, the vine not perhaps one foot high. Again, sow turnip seed in the cotton field in August or September. The seed vegetate; make a few leaves and grow very lit-

tle until the fall of the cotton leaf, when the growth may be a ton or tons per acre. Do they injure the product? Sow clover in cotton or corn field in August or September; there is a large quantity of feed before 1st of January—where the injury? Peas may be sown or planted between hills in March or April, (or beans) so as to injure the corn; but so seldom done—this time of planting—that it is only the bad management to be complained of. (d) Some 20 years ago I lost a crop of pinders by planting peas in the missed hills. They overran the whole surface, covering stumps and highest weeds. I have injured corn by it, falling down and rotting, the weight of the vine and wind prostrating the stalk. Whether the land is benefitted or not by carrying two crops the same season, is a different matter. I have grown corn without and with peas on a similar soil in same fields when the latter is planted at the time usual. In my knowledge no injury can result. Again, I have sown in the fall and in the spring oats and peas, oats and clover, and I have seen no disadvantages to the staple crop, the latter two being merely for pasture. The peas vegetate in the spring and remain some five inches high until oats be cut, when they soon spread until the earth may be covered. Similarly has two crops of corn been grown on the same land. Again, I beg to remind you we are not querying as to advantages to lands.

I am willing to admit peas may injure corn when meets and bounds, weights and measures are given to prove it; but even then, I would require more than a solitary example. We usually endeavor to lay-by our corn as clean as may be; even then we have grass and weeds to cover the land, though these are very diminutive and feeble until fodder is gathered—corn made. How I ask you, can the crop be injured it being made?

P. P.

REMARKS.—(a) We mean when *grown* together, whether planted on the same day or not, to say that the corn is lessened in product. If planted at the same time and in the same hill, the injury to the corn is undoubtedly much greater than if the peas are planted, say one month after the corn, and midway between the hills at the time of our first or second plowing, as is our usual practice; but in either case the two being grown together, the corn, indeed both corn and peas are lessened in product more or less.

(b) We gave from recollection our impressions derived from a conversation with "a neighbor," whose manager has a record of the experiment, but which we have not been able to obtain but in the test, *measuring and weighing*, we understand, the corn was shelled and the peas hulled and cleaned, and in the test in which

the weight alone was taken, the corn in the ear and peas in the haulm were weighed with the fodder in both instances. The vines were not weighed as we are since informed.

(c) The question put at the head of our article was "Do peas injure corn when planted together." Now if you will substitute the word *grown* for "planted," you will at once see that we do not differ in opinion, for we do not pretend to say that if the peas are planted at what you call a "proper time," i. e. after the corn is in tassel, and grown *after the corn is made*, that the corn will be injured, for although in this instance they are grown on the same ground, they are not grown at the same time.

(d) So far as the making a crop of peas is concerned, we can't admit that it is "bad management" to plant early, say in the latter part of April or the first of May, especially on our poor lands, it may be otherwise on your rich calcareous soils of Mississippi. But if we are looking forward to a full crop of corn with such early planting of peas, we shall certainly meet with disappointment. An overseer once planted for us a bottom field in corn and peas, both at the same time and in the same hill; the result was, not half a crop of corn.

In conclusion we are willing to admit that corn is not injured by peas being grown on the same land, provided the peas are grown after the corn is matured; but at the same time believe that any two crops grown on the same land and at the same time, will thereby be lessened in product.—ED.

WATER MELON JUICE.—A correspondent of the Prairie Farmer presents the following method of using water-melons:

I endeavor every year to raise a good water-melon patch. They are a healthy and delightful fruit, I think. I cultivate the icing variety; plant early in May, and again towards the close of the month, so that they may come in succession. When they commence ripening, we commence cutting, and use them freely through the hot weather. When the weather becomes cool in September, we haul a quantity of them to the house, split them open, with a spoon scrape out the pulps into a cullender, and strain the water into vessels. We boil it in an iron vessel into syrup, then put in apples or peaches, like making apple-butter, and boil slowly until the fruit is well cooked; then spice to taste, and you have something most people will prefer to apple butter or any kind of preserves. Or the syrup may be boiled without fruit, down to molasses, which will be found to be as fine as the best sugar-house molasses. We have made of a fall as much as ten gallons of the apple butter, if I may so call it, and molasses, which has kept in a fine condition until May.

SORE TEATS IN Cows.—An old receipt for this ill which the cow is heir to, is rubbing the parts affected in molasses, and we have known it to be tried in many instances with success.—*Boston Cultivator*.

Envy is a turnkey by birth, and an executioner by profession.

**Report of the Committee on "What should be the Elements of Good Farming,"
Made to the Agricultural Association of Laurens
District, at its Annual Meeting, held at Laurens C. H., on the 27th Sept. 1854.**

Your committee to whom was submitted the inquiry, "What should be the elements of good farming?" beg leave to report, that they find the subject to be one of primary importance in the science of Agriculture, but at the same time so abstruse in its form, and comprehensive in its application, as almost to forbid that popularizing necessary to make an inquiry available and pertinent to the community at large.

* * * * *

The committee then go on to speculate on the form of the enquiry, in which they lay down what constitutes the difference between the "*Elements of good farming,*" and the "*Elements of a good farm.*" "The one," they say, "relates to the condition of the land, the depth and texture of the soil, and the disposition of the season upon its surface, while the other relates to the way a man uses them. The one relates to the principles or laws of nature, and the other to the principles or laws by which a man manages and turns them to his advantage in farming. One relates to the powers and capacities for production with which nature is endowed, and the other relates to the powers and capacities of mind to grapple with and control the elements of nature for its own good. One relates to the energy of the earth and climate, and the other to the physical and mental energy of the man."

* * * * *

And further, "The elements of a farm are the materials which a man owns in his farm, and the elements of good farming are a collection of rules or principles which the skill and experience of the world has furnished for the wisest and most judicious management of the farm, and which when collected and systemized, compose the science of farming." * * * * *

When they proceed, "These rules, if ascertained and followed, will lead to a good, judicious and productive management of the whole *modus operandi* of the farm. 1st, in preparing the soil; 2d, adapting the growths or produce, and 3d, cultivating it with a wise reference to the seasons. But there are many details connected with this operation. Your committee do not feel that they have met the objects aimed at by the society much less exhausted the subject, without entering more fully into the details of this process. We will suppose a man to have just entered upon the possession of a farm, and wishes to turn his attention to the business of agriculture in all its departments.—Our present inquiry would ascertain what are those elementary principles which are to actuate him from the beginning to the middle and to the end of his farming manipulations.

He has his farm selected; now he wishes to lay off its divisions—now he wishes to subdue its wilderness—now he wishes to drain its marshes—now to eradicate its noxious growths—now to protect its boundaries—now to pulverize its soil—now to adapt and apply his seed—

now to cultivate according to the crop and seasons—and last, though not least, to harvest and store securely for use the avails of his farm and labors. Tell us, ye wise, ye wisest of the wise, ye adepts in the science and business of agriculture, ye most confident in the judiciousness of your rules, ye aged and educated and experienced, tell us, if ye can tell, how shall all this best be done.

1. *In laying off the divisions of a farm,* an eye must be had to the amount of force employed and the kind of cultivation to be given. To do this wisely we must have a wise rule or principle to go by; and if the man has not already got the rule in his head by serving an apprenticeship of some years to the business, he ought to have it in his pocket, or his secretary or book case, or else employ a guardian, for he cannot expect to succeed without some rule, and if he succeeds well he ought to have a good rule.

2. *In subduing its wilderness,* much advantage will ordinarily be gained by a knowledge of the mechanical forces, in reducing the size of such obstructions as are too large to be readily managed. The model of the axe and its helve, the graduation of the wedge, as well as the lever and its fulcrum, the indispensable hand-spike, the wheel and axle by which in some part the firmest stumps are elevated, or the wheels and beam by which one stump serves the purpose of pulling over another, &c., &c. The rules or elements of primary use in this department may be chiefly learned from works on mechanical philosophy, or by serving a long apprenticeship with one who has mastered them by dint of hard experience.

3. *Its surplus waters must be drained,* whether they arise from gradual or sudden accumulation. Here an acquaintance with the laws of hydrostatics will be indispensable, and they will be required to take their place in the catalogue of elements of good farming. Men may understand the most of those laws required in common practice and think they never learned them, because they have come up in the course of a protracted experience, but they are the laws of hydrostatics notwithstanding, and a man cannot graduate a ditch without using them. They are rules or elementary principles of good farming, and if a man does not know them he ought to learn them, in order to a successful practice in this department.

4. *To eradicate noxious growths,* a man should know what are noxious, and what are innoxious; what are tenacious, and what are sensitive; what are deep-rooted, and what are superficial. An acquaintance with the nature and physiology of plants, a knowledge of Botany will do no harm. And the rules of this department, which must constitute the elements of success, may be found in numerous works on the subject.—Having determined the destruction of this kind of growth, the husbandman will need to exercise his skill, and draw from his stock of rules, summoned up from the experience of mankind, as to the tools and manner of using them necessary to the most expeditious and thorough way of eradicating them. Your committee would think that here there should be such a judicious employment of the most judicious

elements that every blow should be a fatal one.

5 *It is important that the farmer should protect the boundaries of his fields.* We suppose the man has neighbors, and that his neighbors have stock, and that those same stock are permitted as in most places to go where they can go. And we will suppose too that he hates to have his grain fields pillaged, and that his neighbor hates to have his stock come home mutilated, and also that the law has a little to do, and a very little in this matter. And we would suggest that a little knowledge of the tenacity and durability of timber, the mechanical forces that will rend and prepare it, and the rules for the proper construction of a good fence, (not a *lawful* one) may be serviceable to the farmer.

6 *In the next place he must pulverize the soil.*—What are the rules of the operation? On what principle will he proceed? Does his rule lead him to deep plowing, or to superficial scratching? Will it lead him to turn over the soil or merely to loosen it, without disturbing its position? Many considerations come in here, in referring to the condition of the land, the texture of the soil, the character of the crops, and the peculiarity of its roots, to modify any very general rule which might be assumed to control the operations of the farmer in this department. Each particular case however, requiring its particular rule of procedure, and this rule will constitute the element in the given case. And according to his plan of doing the work, will be the tool suited best to secure the result.

7 *Of the adaptation of the seed to the soil and the mode of inserting them.* Here again will be found necessary a knowledge of the physiology of the seed, the rapidity and season of its germination. Also a knowledge of the character of the soil—its suitableness to the required purpose, so that the farmer may come at the law of relation between the seed and the soil.—How do men ordinarily become acquainted with these principles of soil and seed, and plants? By long years of experience, and then often not without the experience of their fathers added to the experience of the generation that sleeps in the dust, when a thorough acquaintance with the science of chemical philosophy would ascertain the same facts and lay down the rules in 24 hours.

8 The next in our order is what in popular language is called the *cultivation or working of the crops.* This also depends upon a variety of circumstances, each in its turn changing or modifying the application of one rule by the introduction of another. Some productions such as the small grains, require little or no culture after once thoroughly applied to the ground, others require an unmitigated attention. Some require to be worked with a particular degree of moisture and temperature of the soil. Some will bear working at almost any period. Some require to be pushed while young—others treated indifferently. In all this a wise reference should be had to meteorological tables, changes of weather and turning of the seasons, so as to secure the largest production, as also the fitting tools which shall best destroy extraneous growths, preserve the looseness of the soil, and

least disturb the roots of the plants to be cultivated.

9 *The process of harvesting and garnering for use,* is often too much neglected in the round of yearly labors. It is a good maxim—to save what is already made whether you make more or not. Not unfrequently both proprietors and overseers will lavish undoubted efforts to pitch and cultivate a crop to be ravished by marauding stock, or to be wasted by storms or freshets, or rot in the field for the want of timely and judicious harvesting, or housing and protecting after it is harvested. There is such a certain tendency to decay and waste immediately after maturity, that unless a farmer has a fixed principle right here, a desire to improve his premises or enlarge his openings will essentially interfere with his true interests, and it is but a pitiable relief, to reflect that his sufferings arise from direlections based upon ignorance of some of the first or elementary principles of farming, such as that weevils will certainly devour wheat if put away in certain conditions. To secure the best tools for harvesting, and to secure most successfully against decay and vermin what is harvested should be considered among the secrets of good husbandry.

10 Nor could we feel satisfied to leave this subject without due reference to the necessity existing to a remarkable degree among us, of resisting the tendency in our farms to deteriorate. To some favored with a more kindly soil and climate, this may seem hardly to belong to the process of farming. But with us, no attention to this subject would, at an early day, reduce a man to a piece of land without any farm, a piece of land consisting of barren ridges and frightful gullies. It should be indelibly branded on every man's right arm, who cultivates land in this country, to let the stars fall from heaven if they will, but never to let his farm wear out. There are rules to prevent it. They belong to the elements of good farming among us, or should belong to them, and if a man does not know them he ought to ask his neighbors what they are, or take an agricultural paper, or make up his mind for the poor house.

It will be perceived that in order to carry out fully the whole process of good and successful farming—a man should be educated into the business. Not that he should necessarily understand Latin and Greek and the differential calculus, but that he should be schooled in the elements of the science of farming. It matters not whether he learns them of his father in a barn loft or of a Philosophical planter in the laboratory of a special department in college. Wherever he can learn them best so as to disjoint the practice from a true theory, that is the place to learn.

Your committee have rather contented themselves, as will be perceived, with presenting the sources whence these rules or elements may be drawn for use, than to undertake the task of compiling them. Such as we have been able to produce we herewith most humbly and respectfully submit.

Z. L. HOLMES, Chairman.

